The Middleburry Campus

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Celebrating 100 Years

VOL. 103 NO. 17 | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2005 | SINCE 1905

100 days ignites excitement in seniors

By Andrea LaRocca
Associate Editor

The well-attended 100 Days Party at the Grille and dance in McCullough Social Space was brought to a sudden close on Saturday night, Feb. 19, when an audio speaker fire forced party-goers to evacuate the building at 1:30 a.m. early Sunday morning. Both Middlebury College Public Safety and the Middlebury Fire Department responded immediately after the fire alarm in McCullough Hall sounded. According to the Department of Public Safety, no one was injured and, save the speaker, no property was damaged.

Floyd Branch '06, better known as Skip, was DJ-ing at the McCullough dance when one of the large speakers slowly began to glow orange. When a tongue of flame appeared and the speaker began to smoke, students started to take notice. Skip said that he did not notice the fire at first and that another student came up and told him about it.

"The party was going really well, and someone came up to me and told me that the speaker was on fire," said Skip. "And so I said, 'Yeah, I know, this is a great party.' And the guy said, 'No, I mean the speaker is really on fire!'"

Volunteer Middlebury Firefighter Scott Palmer '05 was at the dance and was one of

See smoke, page 4

Patrick Gault

A group of students dine at Proctor during the week. It is no longer possible to enjoy a leisurely Saturday or Sunday morning Proctor brunch.

Students decry Proctor closing

By Thomas C. Drescher
News Editor

A surge of student opposition to the College's decision to close Proctor Dining Hall on weekends shook the campus this past week and sparked the creation of a Student Government Association (SGA) proposal requesting the retraction of the controversial dining schedule modification. The proposal, however, failed to persuade SGA members in light of Director of Dining Services Matthew Biette's financial justification and assertions that the decision will likely be upheld despite significant student opposition.

Wonnacott Senator Eli Berman '07 presented a bill at Sunday night's SGA meeting stating two clear objectives: to affect the reopening of Proctor on weekends and, failing that, to persuade the administration to acknowledge the present inefficacy of commons dining. The bill, Berman explained, was designed to express the will of students and challenge the administration to clarify the role of commons dining in residential life. Berman, a self-proclaimed supporter of the Commons system, emphasized the positive implications of his work on this polarizing issue and, despite a current lack of support in the SGA Senate, said he hopes his efforts will aid in commons development and ultimately benefit all students.

The "rationale" section of the bill states

See SGA, page 5

NESCAC at the Natatorium

Ari Joseph

As coaches, teammates and supporters look on, the atmosphere was lively and festive at the NESCAC Women's Swimming Finals Sunday Evening. For complete coverage see **Sports, page 28.**

College appoints new WAGS chair

By Kimberly Schrimsher
Staff Writer

When Middlebury College students consider the tsunami disaster in Southeast Asia, they are not likely thinking about the vastly different effects the disaster had on men and women in the region. Yet that is precisely what the College's new chair of Women's and Gender Studies (WAGS) hopes to address. Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies Sujata Moorti believes a WAGS perspective will help students understand why this natural disaster disproportionately affected women. "It will also help relief agencies and governments understand the ways in which male and female victims need to be differently addressed," she said.

While numerous colleges and universities offer WAGS programs, Moorti says few women and gender studies programs in the United States have international perspectives.

"I want Middlebury to be on the cutting edge," she said.

Moorti's multidimensional awareness impressed Middlebury's search committee last spring when it reviewed a dozen candidates for the new tenured faculty position.

"We were looking for exceptional candidates with proven records of excellence in teaching, scholarship and service," said Vice President for Academic Affairs and search committee member Alison Byerly. "Because the position was intended to bring leadership to the program, we wanted someone of broad-ranging interests who would be able to work collaboratively with colleagues across campus in a variety of fields."

Until this point, according to Professor of Theatre and Women's and Gender Studies Cheryl Faraone, faculty members in other departments rotated in holding the title of WAGS director. "It was difficult for WAGS to operate with the same level of ongoing departmental thinking as other academic programs," said Faraone.

The arrival of Moorti from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia promises enriched course

See Moorti, page 3

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MIDDBRIEFS

BY KATIE FLAGG

Environmental Council sponsors "mini grants"

The Environmental Council recently issued a new challenge to Middlebury College faculty and students, daring members of the College community to design creative ways to advance campus sustainability — with $100 in hand. The challenge is part of a new twist on the Council's Campus Sustainability Grants program. The Council — with at least $1,000 to invest this spring — is inviting proposals for "mini grants" — projects costing no more than $100 apiece, intended to enhance environmental awareness and sustainability on campus.

Previous environmental grants have funded the Yellow Bikes program, the compost-heated College greenhouse, sustainable College gardens, biodiesel research and outreach and studies in paper alternatives, among other projects. This year's suggested grant projects include programs to reduce paper use on campus, increased sustainability education opportunities in the commons, efforts to make the campus more bicycle-friendly and programs to measure energy use, track data and recommend retrofits where necessary.

More information — including grant applications and further suggestions for 2005 grants — is available at the Environmental Affairs Web site. One-page grant proposals are due on March 4 by 5 p.m. to Connie Bisson in the Environmental Affairs Office.

USA TODAY honors Middlebury senior

Middlebury College senior Dena Simmons was recently recognized by USA TODAY for her scholarship and leadership on and off campus. The All-USA College Academic Team program honors 60 undergraduates every year for outstanding achievements in and out of the classroom. Simmons was named to the Third Team and was featured in a February edition of USA TODAY. Over six hundred students applied for the program.

The USA TODAY program places tremendous weight on students' original academic or intellectual projects. Simmons was recognized for her efforts in founding MIX, a cultural outreach program for Vermont elementary schools.

"I am honored to have received this award the represent the school that I love so much," said Simmons. "I would not have been able to do it without the constant support and guidance Middlebury has offered me."

Criteria for the academic team were developed in consultation with the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the American Council on Education. A panel of educators was assembled to selected winners.

"Keepin' it Live in '05" carnival takes the stage

With "Keepin' it Live in '05" as its theme, the Middlebury College Winter Carnival kicks into high gear tonight with a fireworks display over the College's Center for the Arts (CEA). The display marks the beginning of the 82nd annual event — the oldest and largest student-run carnival in the country. The carnival is scheduled to take place today through Saturday.

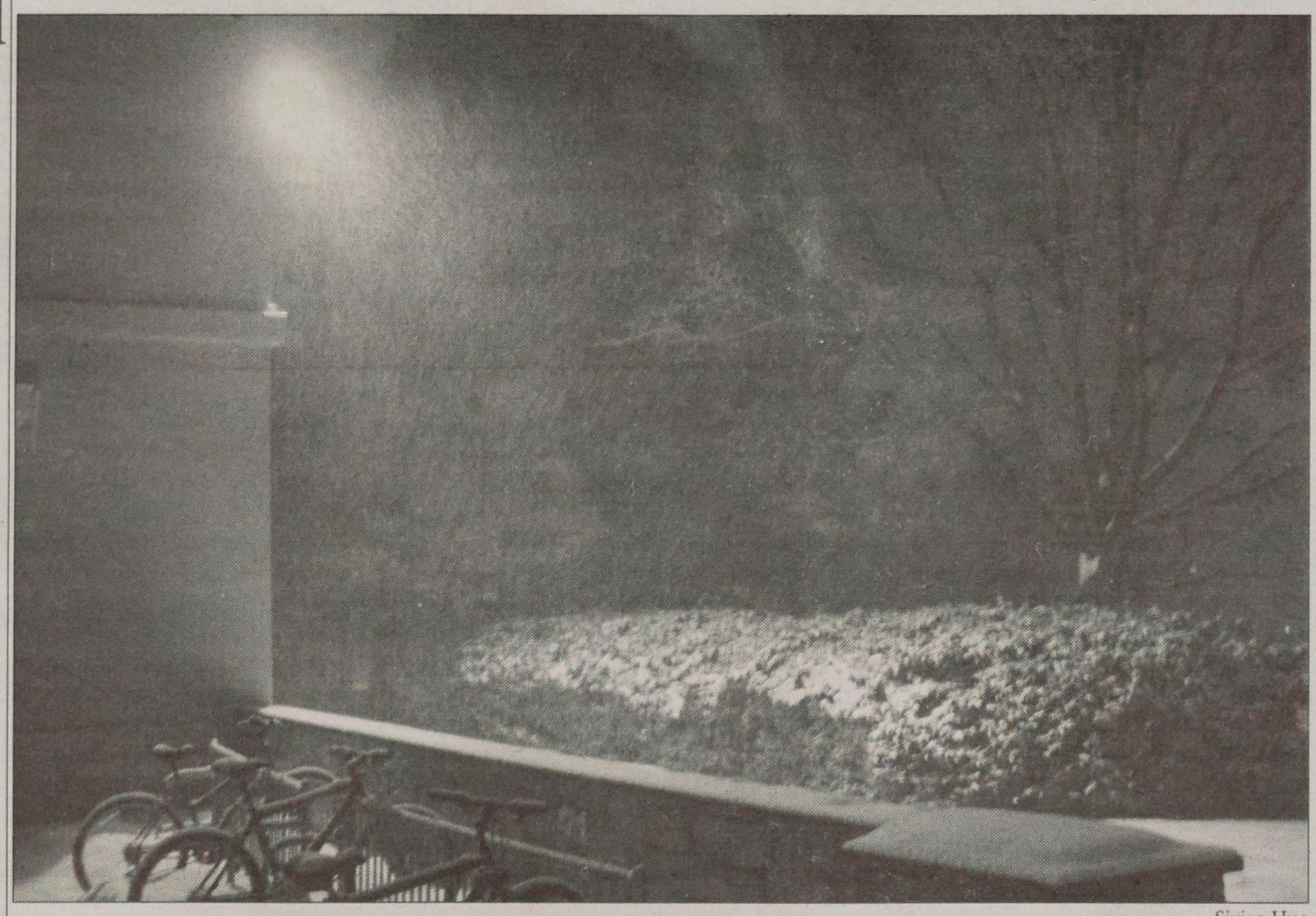
Following this evening's 7 p.m. fireworks, a cultural gala with a musical theme will provide activities for all ages throughout the CFA. The event will feature High Road, a Burlington-based Celtic band, the GT/VT Breakers and Riddim performances.

Tomorrow, students can escape from the cold to enjoy a Dance Movie Marathon in Dana Auditoriaum. Tomorrow night, on-campus performers will compete in an Island Calypso Jam-boree, and the Winter Carnival Ice Show will take place Friday night at 7 p.m. in Kenyon Arena. The "Broadway on Ice" event will feature guest skates, the Middlebury Figure Skating Club and College student, faculty and staff skaters.

Nordic and alpine ski races are scheduled for Friday and Saturday at the Middlebury College Snow Bowl in Hancock and the Rikert Ski Touring Center in Ripton. Visiting teams include those from Bates, Bowdoin, Colby, Dartmouth, Harvard, St. Lawrence, St. Michael's, University of New Hampshire, University of Vermont and Williams. Snow Bowl festivities will include an outdoor barbeque on Saturday at 11:30 a.m. The Carnival will conclude on Saturday night will

FMD tackles wintery challenges

Workers endure 2 a.m. start to clear snowy paths



Sixiao Huo

Windblown snowflakes drift across an already wintery landscape outside Hepburn Hall Tuesday night. Excessive accumulation has been the source of numerous snow removal headaches for members of the Facilities Maintenance team in recent weeks.

By Erin McCormick

Staff Writer

With the seemingly constant winter precipitation since the beginning of second semester coupled with the blizzard on Feb. 17, the Facilities Maintenance Department (FMD) has been faced with the task of snow removal and the de-icing of campus.

Although this winter has been fairly average, according to Assistant Director of the Facilities Management Department Luther Tenny, the department still has been forced to combat many "three inch category storms," using 14 tractors with snowplows and roughly 25 to 30 workers to shovel snow by hand.

Depending on the severity of the storm, the approximately 40 members of FMD start the snow removal process as early as 2 a.m., as was the case with the storm on Feb. 17. For that specific storm, the worst of the year so far according to Tenny, workers began the plowing efforts at 2 a.m. and the hand shovelers joined them around 6 a.m., an hour and a half earlier than the usual workday begins.

Typical routes for the workers last approximately three or four hours. Some storms, however, require two routes.

"We try to keep up on the snow as best as we can, and sometimes this involves going out twice," commented Tenny. Even with double routes, not many workers have gone into overtime. "If they come in early, they get to leave early. Their schedules must be flexible," he added.

Another aspect of the snow removal process that challenges FMD is the fact that Middlebury, being an environmentally aware campus, restricts sidewalk salt usage. Tenny said, "We have to balance ourselves with the environment. In order to cater to students and faculty, we limit salt usage to be environmentally sensitive, which is a bit of a disadvantage for us."

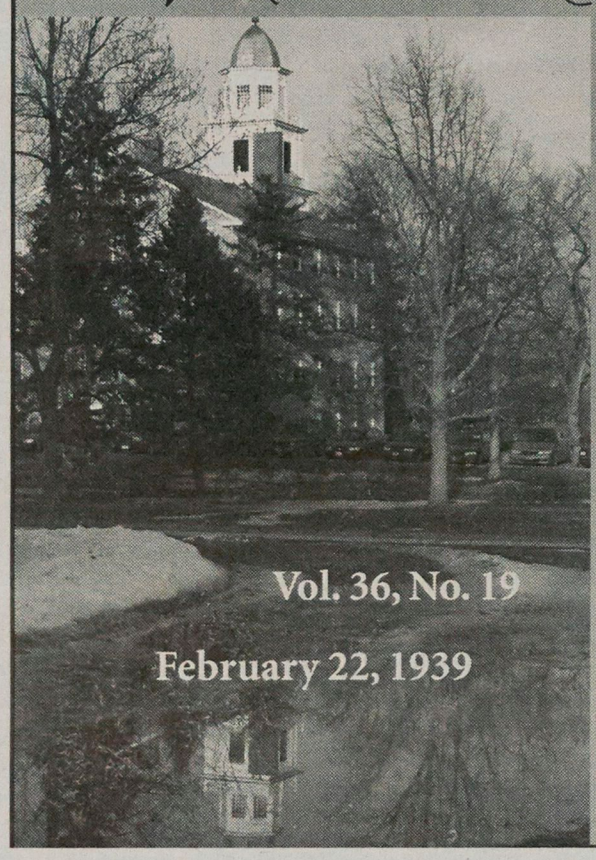
The sand that is put down on walkways is, however, a mixture which contains approximately 10 percent salt. Thus far this winter, approximately three to four hundred cubic yards of salt have been used.

"If we were able to use salt, we would have cleaner sidewalks, but then we would have too much salt on campus. Too much salt wouldn't necessarily hurt the environment, because it can be diluted, but it still isn't environmentally friendly," explained Tenny.

The town of Middlebury uses more salt than the College, so walkways in town are generally in better condition.

According to Tenny, FMD is looking into other deicing products such as liquid ice dilutors which have been used in the past. These products, however, tend to bring grime and dirt into campus buildings. Because of this, it is not currently in use, although other products are being explored for the next winter season.

This Week in Middlebury History



Coronation Opens Carnival Week-end

Officially opening the 1939 Winter Carnival, the Crowning of Middlebury's Czar and Czarina took place in the quadrangle behind Forest Hall last Thursday evening. President Paul D. Moody officiated, and the ceremony was attended by a good crowd of students, faculty and visitors.

The ceremony was begun by a swing fanfare of trumpets. The college royalty, Rusty Ray and Joe Trask, and their attendants marched into the Arcade; President Moody crowned the Czarina. All but the Czar and Czarina and their attendants departed, and the parody prepared for the entertainment of Their Majesties began.

The parody consisted of four pantomimes satirizing current events. The Czech crisis, the situation in China and in Spain, and the humorous aspect of the nation's race for armaments were chosen for these scenes. Following this, the attendants marched out, and a sleigh drawn by a prancing steed, after several unsuccessful attempts, carried the King and Queen away.

Carnival week-end got in full swing with the formal ball, following the coronation ceremony, Thursday evening in McCullough gymnasium. Glenn Miller and his orchestra played for the dancers, including several "jam" sessions among their varied musical arrangements. Vocalist Marion Hutton accompanied the band, notably in a rendition of "Franklin D. Roosevelt Jones" which received an encore. Two programs designed in blue and white were provided for each couple by the Carnival ball committee, headed by co-chairmen Robert F. Pickard '40 and Lois D. Gillette '40.

*** The above text was modified, using original language from its 1939 publication. ***

Davis explores Feb graduation

By Taylor Johnston
Staff Writer

President Ronald D. Liebowitz has launched an investigation into the feasibility of a Feb graduation after announcing his interest in turning the Feb celebration into a graduation at the last Board of Trustees meeting.

Heading the investigation process, Secretary of the College Eric Davis will examine the possible pitfalls of a mid-year graduation over the course of the coming semester.

"I believe it's time for us to think seriously about how to make this happen," said Liebowitz.

Making the traditional celebration and ski-down into an official graduation ceremony would require faculty to submit Winter Term grades and senior comprehensive exam results for graduating Febs only one day after winter classes ended.

Despite this challenge, Liebowitz remains hopeful that such a change will prove plausible. "I suspect we can come up with ways to make it work," he said.

Davis emphasized that a Feb graduation would have to follow the same guidelines and restrictions as the regular spring ceremony.

"No student walks across the stage unless he or she has been certified by the faculty as having satisfactorily completed all degree requirements, with grades submitted for all final term courses," he said. "Additionally, grades would need to be turned in sufficiently in advance of graduation to permit College and departmental honors to be calculated."

Davis hopes to find out whether or not the time frame to submit grades and exam results will prove reasonable for the faculty, and also how the tight deadlines might affect the senior thesis and project process.

"How far in advance of the end of Winter Term would theses or senior projects need to be submitted in order to allow sufficient time for the work to be read, oral examinations to be administered and honors to be assigned?" he inquired, highlighting one of the concerns the inquiry hopes to address. "Would an earlier deadline for submitting theses adversely affect the process of thesis-writing or other aspects of the senior program?"

Davis also stressed that the investigation is still "only in the early exploratory stages" of assessing the possibility of mid-year graduation.

"The administration is just starting to talk about issues associated with making the Feb celebration a graduation," he said. "We would need to have extensive consultations with the faculty, particularly department chairs, on the issues covered by the questions above. Until those consultations have been completed, it is far too early for me to say whether making the Feb celebration a graduation would be feasible."

Sixiao Huo

Cruising down the Snow Bowl's sunny slopes, a Feb consummates his college career at Middlebury last month. The annual Feb celebration may become a formal graduation ceremony, pending Secretary of the College Eric Davis' investigation into logistics.

Moorti clinches WAGS chair title

Course diversity, international focus top department goals

Continued from page 1

offerings, a stronger international component in the program, symposia and the integration of feminist scholarship into the social science and humanities disciplines.

"A liberal arts school is closer to what I want as a professor," said Moorti, who says she came to Middlebury because of the students. "If a liberal arts education is designed to help us become active participants in community, gender becomes an integral variable one has to take into account. [It] saturates every aspect of our lives and must be considered by all scholars irrespective of their own sex."

Nirvana Bhatia

Arriving on campus from Old Dominion University, Professor Moorti was just named chair of the Womens and Gender Studies Department.

While living in India, Moorti worked as a journalist for national newspapers before moving to the U.S. to earn her Ph.D. in WAGS from the University of Maryland, College Park. Her appointment as Middlebury's WAGS chair is already transforming the department.

"In the two weeks since she has been directing the program, she has brought forth a number of initiatives and has begun collaborative ventures with other departments and institutes," said Faraone. Others have commented on her energy and enthusiasm.

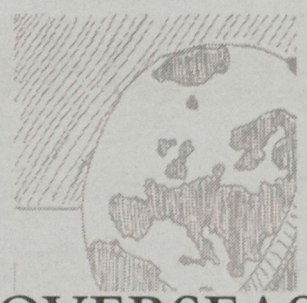
"I plan to diversify the range of courses offered under the WAGS designation. This should allow students understand the important interventions feminist scholarship has made in academia and help them grasp the multi-and inter-disciplinary nature of this field," said Moorti.

This semester, Moorti is teaching two classes: "Foundation of Women and Gender Studies" and "Mobile Women," a class that focuses on women who migrate in search of jobs.

"Bringing a gendered perspective to the analysis of any situation can offer a richer and more nuanced account than one that is gender blind," said Moorti. "In the arena of social policy, gender is an essential category that must be considered to ensure the larger social good."

With Moorti in charge, colleagues have great hopes for the future of the WAGS department. "We were impressed by the breadth of her interests and research, and the way in which her work connects gender issues with questions of race, class, ethnicity and nationalism," said Byerly. "We felt that she would be an excellent teacher who could expand our course offerings in WAGS and connect the program to International Studies, Film and Media Culture and other areas of the curriculum."

A reception was held in honor of Moorti's arrival on campus at Chellis House last Thursday afternoon from 4:30 to 6 p.m.



OVERSEAS BRIEFING

BY JACOB RISINGER

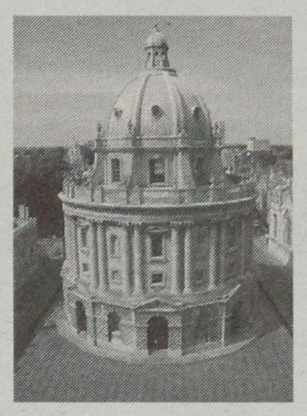
OXFORD — Oxford is known across the world as being a relatively decent place to get an education. What is recognized less often is Oxford's equally impressive — if a bit complex — network of late-night, inebriated snacking facilities. Every night, as the sun slips behind the grey gothic buildings that stand at the heart of this university town, a disparate fleet of "kebab vans" invades the streets like a horde of Mongol raiders ready for the kill. They are typically white and often grease-stained, questionably hygienic and laced with a high-calorie, fast food smell that sticks to your clothes for weeks. In other words: kebab vans are sort of like the evil step-sister of quaint New England ice cream trucks.

Lest all of this sound too daunting, it must be acknowledged that kebab vans are a consistently-beloved fixture of Oxford nightlife — along with cheap wine, cheesy music and bad dancing. Even the ultra-scholarly Oxford English Dictionary acknowledges kebab vans, defining them as vans "with a small cooking area and service hatch that sells kebabs and other takeaway food." Most Oxford students, however, equate kebab vans with a sobering midnight snack. Pouring out of clubs that bellow Elton John's greatest hits and swinging around light posts, Brits crowd around the "service hatches" of these roving snack shacks, anxious for fulfilment.

I have never had a kebab — I don't eat cubed meat, especially when it's smeared in mayonnaise. When I first arrived in England, however, I invested a small fortune in "chips and cheese." This, my friends, is a four-star savoury delight. Big fat French fries (i.e. chips) are coated in shredded cheddar cheese, topped with ketchup and boxed in a little styrofoam crate for the long walk home. Most kebab vans, though, are strong supporters of creativity and the arts. Chips can be dressed in myriad ways to suit your fancy: buried in baked beans, sprinkled with lettuce, dashed with salt, or garnished with low-grade chicken and sausage. Health-conscious Brits can even select to have their chips with a side of hummus.

After enjoying several rounds of chips and cheese — as well as the faint trace of heartburn that so often follows in their wake — I decided to restrict myself to stopping at kebab vans for special occasions only. I ordered a chips and cheese to cheer myself up after George W. Bush's inauguration, and had another last week to congratulate Prince Charles and Camilla on their upcoming wedding.

Yet even when I'm chipless, kebab vans haunt my more constructive thoughts. What if we had a kebab van at Middlebury? What if you could stop for a snack halfway between Coffrin and Fletcher, or enjoy a hot burger on the coldest night of J-Term? I see potential for a multi-million dollar industry in the making. Although I'm sure Middlebury's ES majors would have to do something about those cantankerous Styrofoam crates…



Seniors celebrate despite smoke scare

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the first to respond to the fire.

"We carry pagers with us, so when I saw the smoke rising from the speaker, I knew I would probably be getting a call soon and that the fire alarm was about to go off," said Palmer. "Someone grabbed a fire extinguisher and put out the fire and then there was just some smoke in the building, so we cleared that out." Palmer said that since the fire had not escalated to a level considered dangerous, it did not take long to put out the fire and to clean up afterwards.

Bruce Davis '07, who was working the sound system at the Juice Bar on Saturday night, also responded early because he knew how the sound system in McCullough worked.

"What I saw was that on the upper half of the speaker, in the back of the box there was a large plate, most likely an aluminum heat dissapator, that was bright orange-white and looked like it was melting," said Davis, describing the how the speaker fire looked up close. "Eventually, the speaker cones themselves were burning."

The McCullough dance, which was ironically scheduled to end exactly when the speaker caught fire, was the grand finale to the 100 Days Party in the Grille which featured a live campus band called Del Boca Vista. Complimentary food, lower prices for alcoholic beverages, a complimentary Class of 2005 pint glass and three beverage vouchers for of-age students who donated to the senior class enticed many members of the Class of 2005 to spend the night celebrating the upcoming graduation with their classmates.

According to Lia Lopez '05, Senior Committee co-chair, about 300 people attended the 100 Days Party — which she called an impressive turnout.

"Steve Reigle, the Grille manager mentioned that this party was the largest alcohol event that the Grille has ever hosted," Lopez said.

Last semester, the 200 Days Party was held at Mister Up's in town, and it received some criticism because underage seniors were not allowed to attend the party. By hosting the 100 Days Party on campus, this problem was avoided because, as Martha Dutton '05, Senior Committee co-chair, pointed out, "Like every other event at the Grille, people under 21 were admitted but were not served alcohol." Lopez emphasized that the Grille was preferential for a variety of other reasons as well.

Ari Joseph

Members of the class of 2005 packed the Grille and celebrated the last 100 days of their college careers as Middlebury College students.

"We really wanted to have an event where we were not obligated to charge people at the door for alcohol. Middlebury College does not pay for alcohol purchased off campus," said Lopez. "By not having to charge at the door, we were able to offer free drinks and pint glasses as an incentive for seniors to give to the Senior Class Gift. Also, the Grille is a central location that is accessible to everyone on campus and we had hoped, in planning the event, to attract those seniors who are less interested in drinking in town on a Thursday night."

Over 100 gifts to be put towards the senior class were colleted at the 100 Days Party.

Someone came up to me and told me that the speaker was on fire. So I said 'Yeah, I know, this is a great party.' And the guy said, 'No, I mean the speaker is really on fire!'

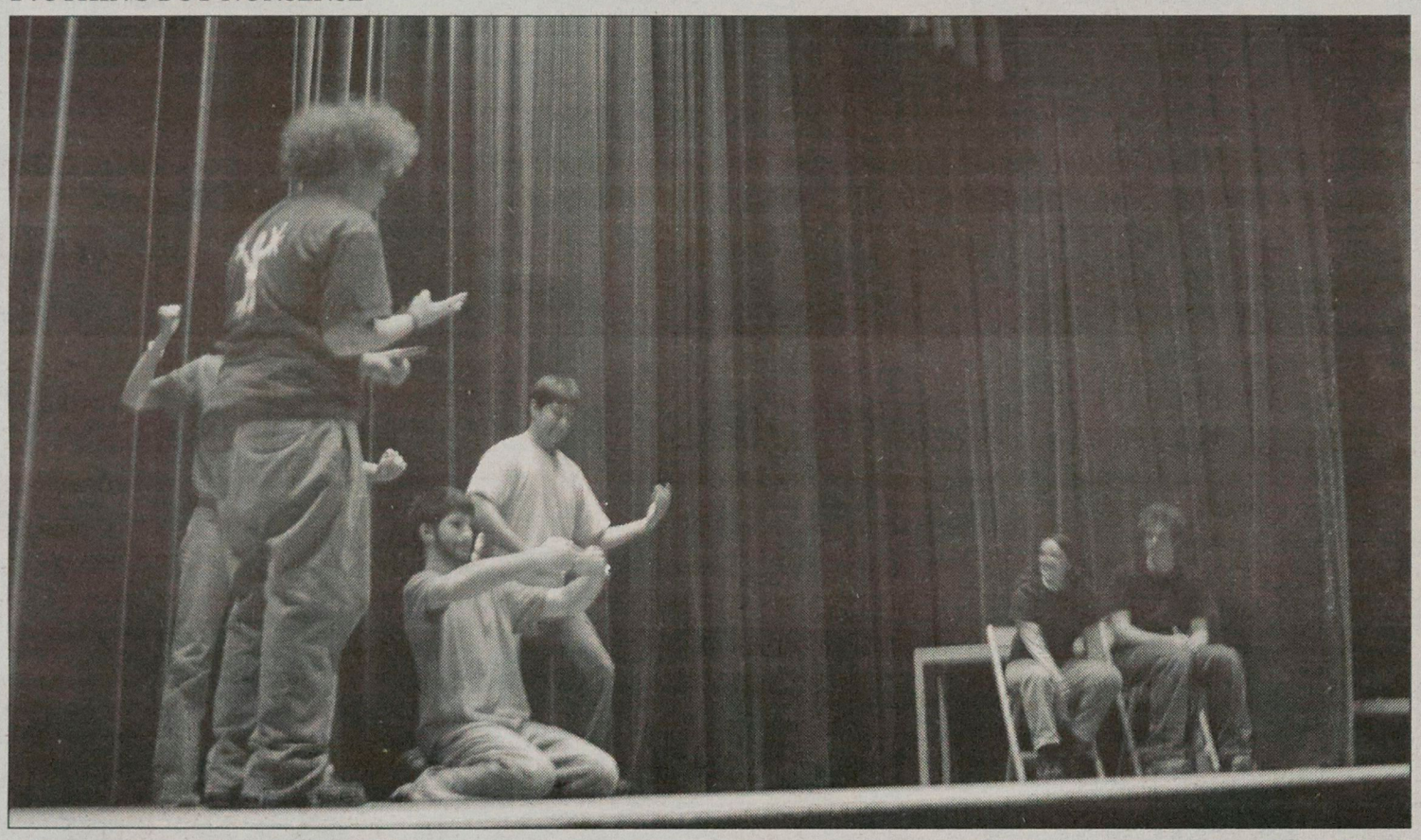
— Floyd Branch '06

This statistic, which Dutton and Lopez were very happy about, means that about 40 percent of the senior class has already contributed to the Senior Class Gift.

"We are thrilled that so many have been enthusiastic about the gift and hope that by the end of the year all seniors will have given." Lopez said, "We are really focusing on giving participation this year."

As a result of the enthusiasm demonstrated by the Class of 2005 last weekend, Dutton said that, "We're in the process of considering a 50 Days Party because of the success of the 100 Days Party."

NOTHING BUT NONSENSE



Ari Joseph

Engaging in on-stage antics, the current crop of Otters entertained a lively student audience in Dana Auditorium at Tuesday evening's performance. The Otters perform improvise comedic skits several times each semester.

The Middlebury Campus

invites you to contribute story ideas to the News Section

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SGA tables Proctor revival bill

Wonnacott, Brainerd petition for equal commons dining

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that students in Wonnacott and Brainerd Commons "have not forgotten the College's plan to spend upwards of $25 million to build two additional dining halls where Proctor stands now — one for Wonnacott, the other for Brainerd," and expresses concern regarding the validity of this long-term proposal considering the College's current inability to operate three dining halls on weekends.

According to SGA President Andrew Jacobi '05, the complexity of the proposal forced SGA members to request that Berman revise his work and present two separate bills next Sunday.

A statement read on behalf of Biette to Sunday night's SGA Senate congregation explained the College's motivation for modifying the weekend dining hall schedule. According to the statement, the additional cost — as much as $150,000 — of hiring employees to operate a third dining hall on weekends is not supported by Dining Services' budget. Biette provided data illustrating the lack of necessity for a third dining facility to remain open on weekends. Taking into consideration the waste-minimizing, made-to-order setups at Ross and Atwater, it made sense to shut down Proctor in particular on weekends. Biette's statement also pointed out that Proctor is the new home of Dolci on Friday nights and will continue to be available as a venue for commons programming. Biette himself was unavailable for comment this week.

Jacobi cited the decision to close Proctor on weekends as contrary to the College's commitment to commons equity, but, along with Berman and other SGA members, acknowledged the legitimacy of Biette's financial justification. Still, Jacobi echoed Berman's concerns regarding the future construction of additional dining halls in light of the College's current inability to finance just three dining venues on weekends and the constant burden of a steadily increasing comprehensive fee.

While Berman met with Biette last week to discuss the Proctor problem and worked to develop a political, commons-based solution, other outspoken critics of the decision to close Proctor on weekends were working toward a similar goal. Brainerd Senator Nura Suleiman '07, who collaborated with Wonnacott Commons Residential Advisor (CRA) Sarah Jones and Brainerd Residential Advisor (RA) Mary Mendoza '06 to contact Brainerd and Wonnacott students by e-mail, organize a petition signing and encourage the student body to challenge Dining Services and the administration, stressed the importance of Proctor as a "home" for Brainerd residents. Many students on the south side of campus share Suleiman's assessment and have come to enjoy the unique amenities and comfortable and familiar surroundings of Proctor. Unfortunately for them, Ross or Atwater will have to suffice from lunchtime on Friday until Sunday at 5 p.m.

According to Mendoza, concerned students at last week's Brainerd Commons meeting discussed options for fighting the decision to close Proctor. Mendoza and others collaborated to author a petition that makes a number of entirely legitimate arguments.

The petition contends that Proctor should be reopened on weekends because it feeds the south side of campus, including Stewart, Hepburn, Gifford, Starr, Painter, the mods, a number of the academic interest houses and all of the social houses. By comparison, it asserts, "the Atwater complex feels extremely remote. It is neither practical nor fair to choose the Atwater dining hall over Proctor just because of its novelty."

The petition also reiterates Suleiman's sentiments, "We as students cherish the intimate and comfortable atmosphere that is available only at Proctor. Such a home-style ambiance is precious, particularly following the stressful, hurried work week."

At press time, the petition had been signed by 350 to 400 students from all over campus. Mendoza said their goal is 700, and she is optimistic that with the coordinated efforts of Brainerd, Cook and Wonnacott Commons and the SGA, students will succeed in persuading Dining Services and the administration to reconsider its position on Proctor.

COLLEGE SHORTS

BY THOMAS C. DRESCHER AND CAROLINE S. STAUFFER

Colby dining offers alcohol to of age students

Colby College is pursuing a new approach to confront the problem of alcohol abuse on college campuses. It will, in fact, serve beer and wine in its dining halls to students of legal drinking age on select Friday evenings.

The College has also added alcohol-related programming, such as a lecture on Belgian-style beers by the owner of the Allagash brewery, to its calendar of events.

The idea behind this new philosophy is to highlight the social norm of drinking in moderation instead of only focusing on the negative aspects of consumption.

Colby Student Body President Catherine Welch proposed the idea of adding alcohol in low-key and educational settings after returning from a study abroad semester in Nepal where it was normal for her to enjoy the occasional glass of wine or beer.

"What Colby is doing in dining halls is exposing students to the 'true norm' of moderate, social alcohol consumption," said Michael P. Haines, director of the National Social Norm Resource Center at Northern Illinois University. "Such exposure is another way that a 'false norm' (binge-drinking-as-typical) is challenged."

Not all authorities agree.

Henry Wechsler, principal investigator of the Harvard School of Public Health College Alcohol Study questions the message Colby is sending to students under age 21. "This type of program must simply whet the appetite of the underage students, and remind them that college and alcohol come together," he says.

— InsideHighered.com

Southern students defend accent

According to *The Collegiate Times*, a student publication at Virginia Tech, southerners are beginning to question the necessity and integrity of accent reduction courses cropping up everywhere below the Mason-Dixon Line.

Martin Childers, program director of a theater in Prestonsburg, Kent., said his establishment offers courses to acting students who, for acting purposes, wish to minimize their southern accents. Childers and others see the courses as a useful tool for improving the marketability of actors who might otherwise be faced with limited opportunities because of their distinctive speech.

Recently, however, students and experts across the southern states have begun to question the validity of accent reduction courses, asserting that they imply a certain inherent inferiority associated with southern speech.

"They should never devalue their heritage and never let anyone else devalue it," said Virginia Tech English Professor Stephen Mooney. "A man who runs from his heritage is not worth the dirt that flies from beneath his feet."

"Why shouldn't we send northerners applying for jobs in the south to reduce their yankee accent?" argued Lindsay Robinson, an interdisciplinary studies major at Virginia Tech.

Childers contends that the courses teach temporary accent modification and are not designed to diminish or cheapen one's heritage.

— U-Wire

public safety log

FEBRUARY 19, 2005 TO FEBRUARY 21, 2005

DATE	TIME	INCIDENT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
2/19/05	1:57 a.m.	Vandalism	Bathroom	Pearsons	No Suspects
2/19/05	2:45 a.m.	Vandalism	Lights	Hadley	No Suspects
2/19/05	12:40 a.m.	Alcohol Offense	Underage Drinking	Pearsons	Referred to Commons Dean
2/20/05	1:30 a.m.	Assault	Simple	McCullough	Open
2/20/05	12:55 a.m.	Alcohol Offense	Possession by Minor Non Student	KDR	Referred to Dean of Student Affairs
2/21/05	12:22 a.m.	Vandalism	Fire Extinguisher Discharge	Heburn	No Suspects

Public Safety reported seven incidents of alcohol possession by minors this week. These incidents occurred in Jewett House, College Street, LaForce, Pearsons and Stewart. All incidents were referred to Commons Deans.

localnews

6
FIRE ALARM
VERGENNES RESIDENT SUSPECT IN FERRISBURGH FIRES

7
COYOTE DISPUTE
RESIDENTS HOWLING OVER IMPENDING HUNT

Ferrisburgh feels fire aftermath

Local citizen arraigned on arson charges

By Elizabeth Siegel
Staff Writer

Mixed emotions resulted from last week's arrest and arraignment of James Husk, a 63-year-old Addison County native who now faces trial for arson.

The Vergennes resident was taken into custody at the Middlebury barracks on Thursday, Feb. 17 for the recent string of fires, three in total, which plagued nearby Ferrisburgh. According to a Vermont State Police affidavit, Husk admitted to first torching Ferrisburgh resident James Danyow's barn on the evening of Feb. 15, setting fire to the town's historic Grange Hall later that night and burning his own farm on Feb. 17, completing the destructive trio.

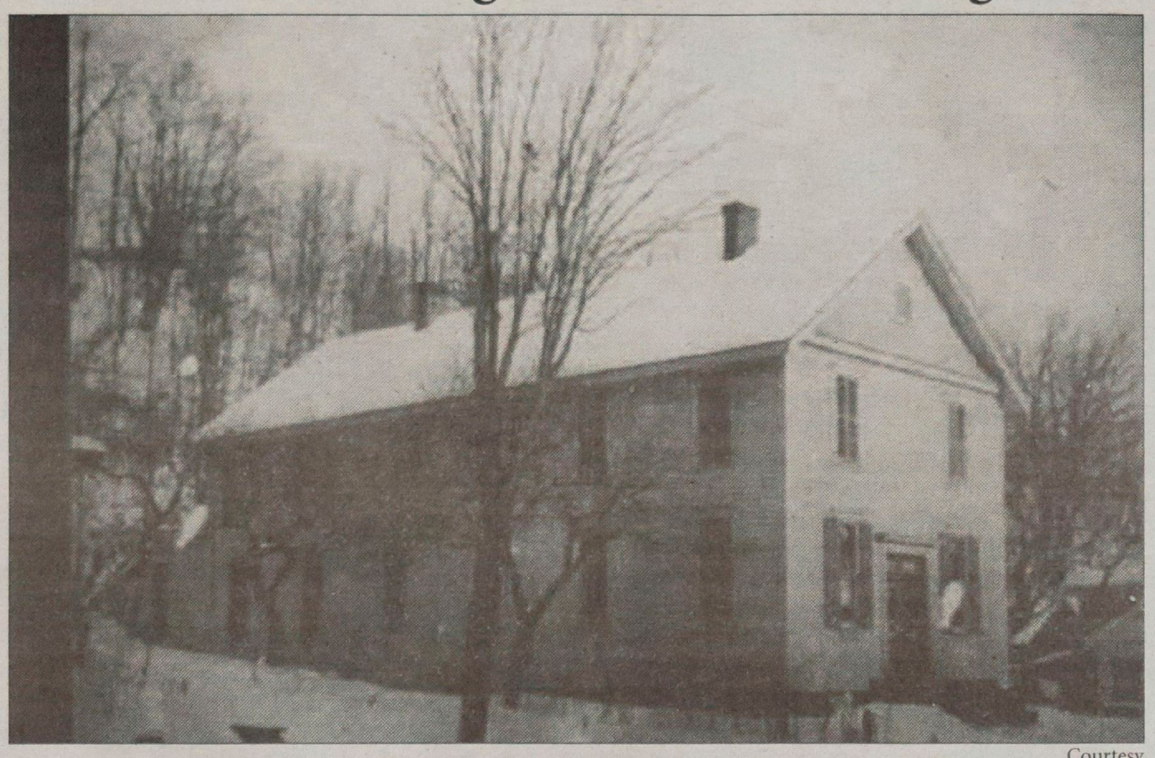
Despite the alleged admission of guilt, Husk pled innocent at his Friday arraignment in front of Judge Christina Reiss, who set his bail at $50,000.

Following Reiss' decision and the reported retention of Husk at the Marble Valley Correctional Center in Rutland, the town of Ferrisburgh has felt able to breathe a sigh of relief.

"He basically admitted to the fires," commented the town's Selectboard Chairman Larry Simino, "so now the townspeople don't have to worry that [an arsonist] is still around."

Mingled with the quelled fears, however, are shades of uneasiness. As noted by volunteer firefighter Scott Palmer '05, "If a fire starts, you want it to have been from natural causes. It's hard to tell yourself that there is someone out there who did it."

The fact that the arsonist was himself a local resident, having grown up in Ferrisburgh before moving to Vergennes, further colors the story. "In a small community like Ferrisburgh," commented Middlebury College College Residential Advisor (CRA) and Palmer's co-volunteer Eric Ambrette '04, "that sort of thing is a huge surprise." Ambrette, who helped put out the fire at Grange Hall, added "It's a sad sight to see."



Courtesy

This prototypical Grange Hall illustrates how the Ferrisburgh building looked prior to the fire that destroyed it on Feb. 15. Grange halls — common in rural Vermont — were meeting places for members of the Grange, a farmers association founded in 1867. The Ferrisburgh building was a historical site marked for preservation.

Ferrisburgh's tragedy of local resident turning local arsonist has caused heartbreak for friends and family of Husk, who cite mental instability as the cause of the destructive acts. They say that ever since Husk suffered a coma and underwent brain surgery following an ATV accident last February he has been a different person.

"If a fire starts, you want it to have been from natural causes. It's hard to tell yourself that there is someone out there who did it."

—Scott Palmer '05

According to a Feb. 21 article that ran in the *Addison Independent*, Vergennes resident and Husk's 20-year companion Carol Morris left Police Chief Michael Lowe with the impression that Husk was indeed suffering from mental distress. Lowe is quoted as saying that Morris described Husk as "distraught over personal issues" and "obsessed with financial and tax problems." Allegedly, he often contended that "the IRS was watching him." Lowe was unavailable for comment.

Danyow, himself a friend and former employee of Husk, is quoted in the *Addison Independent* as having said that, due to Husk's mental condition, "There's no hard feelings" regarding Husk's burning of Danyow's barn.

Danyow may or may not speak for the rest of the town. With respect to Grange Hall, which was set to be renovated into a new town meeting center and office building, Simino explained, "The town had worked so hard to finally agree on a route to take [regarding renovation] and people had worked to get funding and match the grants we were receiving and the appropriation the town had voted on."

Simino added that as he watched "while it [Grange Hall] was burning," he could not help but think that all that work "was literally going up in smoke."

POLITICS OF FOOD

Zilai Gan

The "Politics of Food" discussion panel held Sunday, Feb. 20 presented a wide array of perspectives on modern agriculture, consumerism and the organic food movement. The panelists included Paul Ralston, owner of Vermont Coffee; George Shane, founder of American Flatbread; Kirk Webster, owner of Champlain Valley Bees and Queens; and the College's Matthew Biette, director of Dining Services at Middlebury. Ralston stressed the importance of both individual and collective decisions about food and used the tsunami in Asia as an example of an event that affected the coffee world by causing a rapid increase of prices. Shane emphasized the need for people to stop thinking about food in a conventional sense and to start developing new platforms and ideas regarding how to feed one another. Biette helped connect all these issues surrounding politics and food to the College, since the school currently gets about 20 percent of our food from locally produced products. — Carolyn Davis

Coyote hunt receives biting town response

By Andrea Glaessner
Staff Writer

Organized coyote hunts are cropping up all over Addison County with cash incentives for hauling in the "villainous predators." There have been three hunts scheduled in the past two months with over 600 enthusiastic gamesmen. But not everyone is strapping on their boots and cleaning out their guns.

There is an intense scientific, political and moral debate brewing among hunters, environmentalists and politicians right here in Addison County. In this debate, everyone has an opinion fueled by a passion to protect what is right and true. For the hunters, organizing coyote hunts is the right thing to do in order to bolster the diminishing deer population. For the opposition, coyote hunts are an unethical, unsafe and inefficient practice for an end that is questionable in itself. Underneath it all, it is clear that this duel is not just about coyotes and deer, but rather a clash of two sides over man's relationship with nature.

To examine the scientific aspect of the debate it must be asked if killing coyotes will truly be an effective means of boosting the deer population as the hunters ardently suggest. According to Mead Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies Steve Trombulak, "From a scientific perspective the hunt is not really about deer."

First, "the coyote has a reproductive biology such that when mortality is high there is increased reproduction," said Trombulak. Hence killing more coyotes triggers an instinctual response to reproduce more and at a faster rate.

Second, there is no data to suggest that live deer are the coyote's main prey. Coyotes mainly eat deer carrion [road kill], as well as seeds, rodents and even woodpeckers. Running after a deer is too much work for the savvy descendent of the wolf.

Coyotes are not actually native to Vermont. Trombulak explained, "Coyotes are in Vermont because humans extirpated the wolf — they emigrated through the Lake states in the 1950s because humans eliminated the top level carnivore — the wolf." Thus the coyote is actually an "exotic species." When exotic species are harmful to their habitat, they become "invasive exotics." According to Trombulak, "Invasive exotics cost millions in damage to the U.S. economy and are implicated in ecological problems as well. One might be able to argue that [the hunts] are okay because of an attempt to control an exotic. But this notion of exotic control isn't a motivation for the hunt as expressed by the hunters thus far."

Courtesy
With a coyote hunt looming, environmental groups, local citizens and even some Middlebury professors are up in arms about the possible effects.

John Hall, who works for Vermont's Fish and Wildlife department, agreed with Trombulak's assertion that the coyote hunts will not help sustain the deer population. He explained, "When the hunters are holding these hunts what they don't realize is that in order to really remove coyote numbers you've got to remove 70 percent every year. There is no way in the world these [hunters] can do that. Coyotes are adept at avoiding people, even more than their relatives — the wolves of Canada. I'm sure [the hunts] make the hunters feel good. But in the long term they're not going to really make a difference at all. What we need to do is manage the deer population as precisely as we can. The diminishing deer population is far more dependent upon winter severity and habitat quality, not coyotes."

As a result, "There is no data to support that coyotes reduce deer. If you completely eliminated the coyote there would be little effect on the deer population," said Hall.

Hunters and animal lovers will never agree on issues regarding animal rights. But the issue in Addison County is about getting both sides to agree on a compromise.

The Reverend Paul Bortz and his group of about 25 people known as "Vermonters for Safe Hunting and Wildlife Diversity" are fervently opposed to the hunts and have asked for a set coyote hunting season. Bortz claimed, "Since safety should be a concern for everyone, the public needs to know that these hunts, which employ the use of high-powered rifles, can be called at any time of the year with most of the general public being unaware of them — and that night hunting is permitted, unlike the regular November rifle deer season, when we are all prepared to wear orange. We question the safety of our children playing and skiing outside during these hunts, even the safety of our pet dogs." For Bortz, on the surface this conflict is about regulating hunting practices to secure the safety of the community. But on a personal level, Bortz is concerned with the ethicality of what he calls this "coyote slaughter."

In response to Bortz's concern for safety, Hall commented , "There's never been a coyote hunting accident. It's rewarding to see that 35 years ago we were having as many as 30 accidents a year related to deer hunting. We're having fewer and fewer accidents as we go forward, in large part we believe due to a mandatory hunter education program. We're trying to teach [hunters] safety and ethics".

Although the threat to safety is not a concern for the Fish and Wildlife Department in this case, the effect these hunts may have on hunting's reputation is. Hall commented, "We are urging people not to [organize these hunts]. The most important thing for [the hunters] should be about maintaining the image of the hunter, and these hunts are creating a poor image of hunting."

Perhaps the hunters are mistaken in their scientific objective. If so, this issue becomes purely moral and political. Do they have the right to hunt coyotes without regulation? No matter if you're a hunter or a vegan, answering this question engages you in a debate that goes beyond Middlebury, Addison County, and even Vermont.

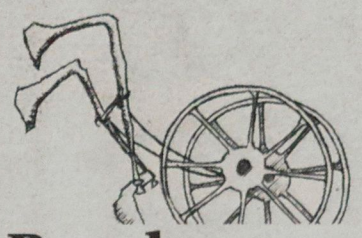
VERMONT by the numbers

1978: The year in which Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield created their first scoop shop, in a renovated gas station in Burlington, Vt.

185: The number of Vermont Army National Guard soldiers who returned home on Monday after almost a year in Iraq.

107: The number of authentic covered bridges in Vermont — more per square mile than anywhere else in the world.

Sources: burlingtonfreepress.com, vtliving.com



Rural Banter

BY ERICA GOODMAN

Some towns pass along gossip. Others send the good old flu circulating. Middlebury has its own ideas of what to spread through a community. A petition to limit retail expansion with nearly 1,000 signatures from Addison County residents was brought to the meeting of the Select Board on Tuesday night. Although Hannaford may seem like a godsend of supermarket modernity — and a double blessing for our wallets — opening huge retail stores does a number on the local economy. Wal-Mart has announced plans to erect more stores in Vermont, and they have a profound interest in our area. So what effect would a store like Wal-Mart have on a small community like Middlebury? That is precisely the issue which Middlebury-area resident and Scholar in Residence in Environmental Studies Bill McKibben tackled in last week's *Addison Independent*. He has spent time researching the rise of superstores for an upcoming book on local economies and here is what he has uncovered.

Indeed, the retail giant would offer a variety of goods at much lower prices and at a greater convenience. Frequent shoppers at Wal-Mart would save an estimate d$54 a year! Enough to.... well, buy a pair of sneakers. The cost of every Wal-Mart customer sporting a new pair of kicks would mean the shutting down of local businesses. An average 84 percent of Wal-Mart sales come at the cost of area stores. The fact is drilled into the company's work methodology. A former Wal-Mart employee slogan perhaps could summarize it best — "Stack it deep, sell it cheap, stack high, watch it fly, hear those downtown merchants cry." Forth ' n' Goal, the Alpine Shop. Oh how we will miss you so. But wait! The long-standing Middlebury merchants may lose their beloved shops, however, a new flurry of jobs awaits the hard-working, motivated individual ready to "roll back the prices." Right? Umm, not quite. As McKibben pointed out, Wal-Mart actually destroys more jobs than it creates — an average 230 to 140, respectively.

Recent studies have shed light on the huge vacancy left in towns where Wal-Mart or other superstores have put down their aisles. Wal-Mart employees are more likely to rely on state-provided healthcare or arrive at the emergency room without any insurance at all. Areas with the presence of a Wal-Mart have seen a rise in family poverty rates as money allocated back to the superstore is directed to the faceless stockholders, not the surrounding community. Local stores, in turn, reimburse their communities by donating four times as much profit percentage to local charities as do the superstores. I suppose the bouncing smiley face in TV commercials is meant to brighten customers' and employees' self-esteem and not their bank accounts. But just think how great those $54 pair of shoes will look on everyone in Middlebury.

Opinions

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Editorial

Missing the forest for the peas

Those at the College who lament the loss of Proctor on the weekends make valid points. The closure of the well-loved dining hall does mean that a significant portion of the student body will have to re-locate on Saturdays and Sundays. There will be the suspension of the signature-Proctor ambiance for 48 hours. Students will have to go without overstuffed paninis for a few meals. Yes, to some it seems like the new dining hall is inconveniently located. However there is nothing that can be done now about the placement of the new Atwater dining hall and those who are putting their efforts into petitions and protests over the closure would be well advised to recognize that the weekend closure of Proctor was prompted by reasons other than to deliberately insult students in Brainerd and Wonnacott.

Anyone who has been a witness to the production that goes into a meal at a Middlebury dining hall must realize that keeping one open is not cheap. As reported to the Student Government Association (SGA), it would cost $150,000 annually to hire the staff members needed to keep Proctor open seven days a week. But it is an issue about the Middlebury EXPERIENCE, right? It's not just about the price tag, right?

Right. So now students who live on the far north of campus are able to eat all meals seven days a week without having to walk distances comparable to that of someone on the south side. Stop pontificating about how unfair that is and consider that for the past two years the positions have been reversed. Freeman International Center (FIC) was closed on the weekends except for Sunday dinner. But it is not as far from Allen Hall to Ross Hall as it is from Starr Hall to Ross Hall, one might say. True, but while comparisons are being made, consider the size of this campus. Less than 3,000 students and there are three full dining halls, not to mention three different "restaurants," — four if you count the one at the golf course. Many significantly larger universities have less than that. As well, because of the comprehensive fee, meals at dining halls are all-you-can-eat buffets, definitely an underappreciated luxury. Also, to be accurate, Proctor is closed for dinner only one night of the week as Dolci now uses that space as its new headquarters. Students who fear the walk across College street should consider lining up for tickets to the Friday night student prepared meal — the fare will drive thoughts of paninis out of their minds.

There are two concerns that have been raised by Proctor aficionados that Dining Services should give special consideration to, over-crowding and vegetarian options. Both Atwater and Ross have smaller capacities than Proctor and it shows during the six o'clock crunch. Also, providing veggie options that require as much culinary effort as meat dishes is a Proctor-specialty that is not emulated at the other dining halls on a regular basis. Perhaps the answer then is to close Ross instead of Proctor, a move that would satisfy most — except for the residents of the Ross complex who right now can walk around in shorts and t-shirts when it is 15 degrees and snowing.

The closure of Proctor has stirred so many students that those who though Midd-kids had lost the activist spirit of old are now reconsidering their position. However, at the same time that south-side students picket Old Chapel, the anti-discrimination policy of Middlebury College is under review as an aftermath of the Marine Corps coming on-campus to recruit. Shouldn't students be more concerned about discrimination and diversity issues than about dining and deserts? One would hope so, but over 300 students signed the petition to keep Proctor open and only 139 people (including members of the faculty) signed the petition to prevent organizations that openly discriminate from recruiting on campus. It seems sometimes that too much emphasis is placed on the little details and not enough is placed on the larger issues. Apparently in a socially-conscious institution like Middlebury concerns are raised by growling stomachs instead of questioning minds grappling with moral dilemmas.

Perhaps students who live on the south side of campus should start looking at the walk to Ross and Atwater dining halls not as a trek of momentous proportions, but instead as a way to work up an appetite before a meal. There are more important things to get worked up about.

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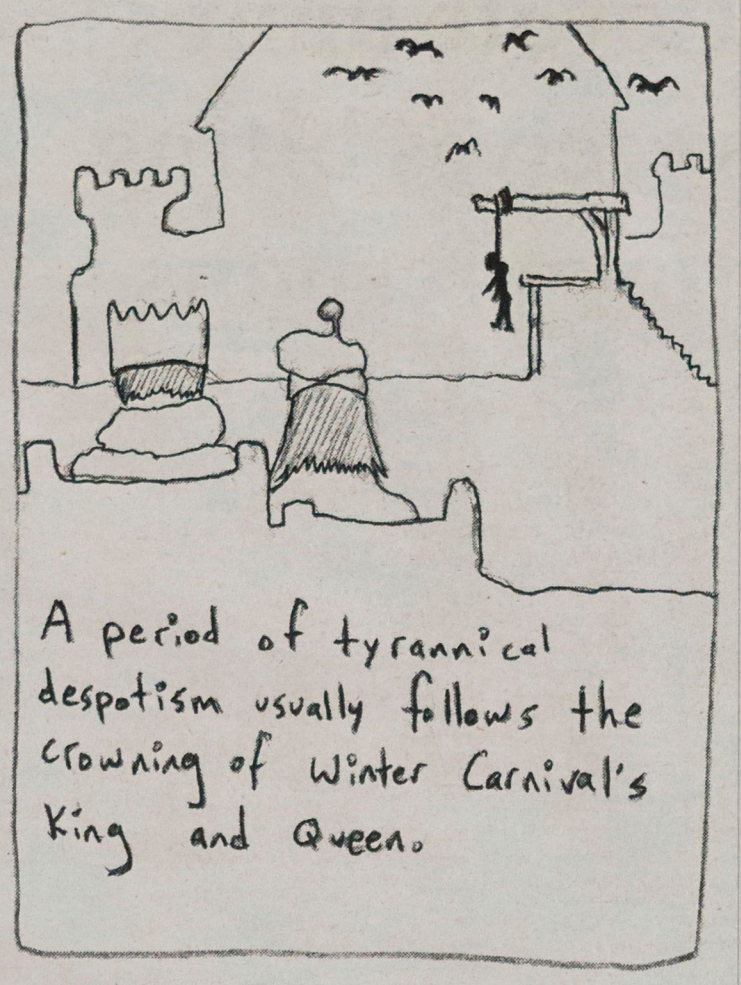


'Open meeting' provision gives green light to recruiters

In recent years, Middlebury has made great strides towards fostering a social climate hospitable to diversity. However, by allowing the U.S. Marine Corps — armed with its disgraceful discrimination policy — to recruit on campus, the College is taking a giant leap backwards. Last year, as the managing editor of this publication, I reported on Middlebury's burgeoning — and increasingly visible — GLBTQ community. When my three-part series was published, the Middlebury Open Queer Alliance (moqa) was enjoying a spike in membership, the Ally Group was on the threshold of official student organization status and, for the first time in six years, the symbolic closet constructed on McCullough Lawn by moqa as part of Visibility Week did not suffer vandalism. Judging from recent conversations with friends still on campus, these small milestones were just the beginning. That is, until now.

I believe that open discussions about difficult topics like the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy are vital to the success of any intellectual community. However, the "open meeting" provision in Middlebury's recruitment guidelines treats a potential employer's failure to fully comply with the College's non-discrimination policy as nothing but a traffic light on the road to recruitment. After all, an hour's worth of interaction with the community was enough grant Captain Doucette a green light to interview interested students.

By opening its doors to the Marine Corps, Middlebury has already missed the perfect opportunity to distinguish itself from its peer institutions by publicly standing up against prejudice and in support of the most inalienable of all our rights — the freedom of speech. When recruiters visit campus, ALL students should have an equal chance to pursue potential job opportunities without having to conceal a part of who they are.

It's such a shame that, at the very moment Middlebury's GLBTQ community was finding a voice on campus, the College managed to silence — albeit symbolically — members of its own student body. This said, I strongly encourage the administration to right this wrong by accepting the faculty's overwhelming vote to eliminate the "open meeting" provision.

CLAIRE M.L. BOURNE '04
FROM CAPETOWN, SOUTH AFRICA.

OPINIONS SUBMISSION POLICY

The Opinions pages of *The Middlebury Campus* provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, *The Campus* reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. *The Campus* will not accept or print anonymous letters. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. *The Campus* welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editor, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's website at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday. *The Campus* reserves the right to edit all submissions.

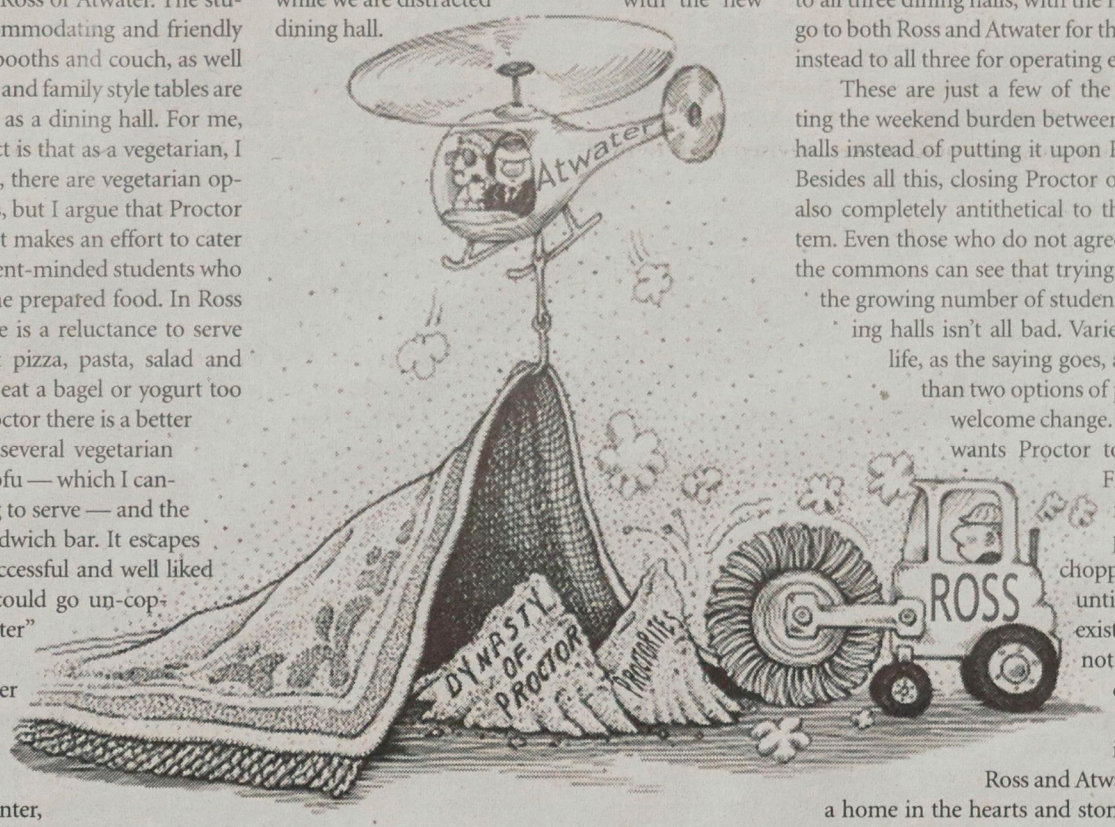
Proctor is where the heart is

Certain students left stranded on the weekend

I write in response to the decision to close Proctor on weekends. As a concerned student and frequent diner at Proctor, I feel I must explain why I and so many others are dismayed by the College's decision.

Many people comment on the differences in atmosphere, people, etc. that make Proctor such a different experience than Ross or Atwater. The students, the extremely accommodating and friendly staff, the lounge with its booths and couch, as well as the upstairs dining area and family style tables are all huge assets to Proctor as a dining hall. For me, the most important aspect is that as a vegetarian, I can actually eat there. Yes, there are vegetarian options at other dining halls, but I argue that Proctor is the only dining hall that makes an effort to cater to us and more independent-minded students who do not just want to eat the prepared food. In Ross and now in Atwater there is a reluctance to serve vegetarians anything but pizza, pasta, salad and fried rice. I guess I could eat a bagel or yogurt too if I really felt like it. At Proctor there is a better salad bar in addition to several vegetarian dishes such as risotto or tofu — which I cannot recall Ross ever trying to serve — and the panini machines and sandwich bar. It escapes me how something as successful and well liked as the panini machines could go un-copied in the two newer, "better" dining halls.

So why leave other Proctor-ites and me stranded on the weekend? Why force the residents of Starr, Hepburn, Painter, Stewart, many social houses and language houses, as well as athletes, actors and dancers who spend much of their weekends at the Center for the Arts and the Athletic Center to drag themselves across campus to stand in long lines and crowded dining rooms? Wasn't the construction of a third dining hall supposed to alleviate the issues of overcrowding? Then why close a third dining hall and create the same problems on weekends? I also wonder why the closing of Proctor has only now been announced to the student body when it was obviously decided long ago. I would have expressed my concerns before if the College had been public with its intentions when building Atwater. Instead, the College has announced it under its breath, so to speak, while we are distracted with the new dining hall.



If the issue is money, then explain it to us. The students of Middlebury College are some of the smartest in the nation, so we can surely understand if the problem is economic. In that case, the fairest option would be to rotate the closing of dining halls, a different one every weekend. This would, in my eyes, solve some problems and have several benefits — the students who frequent any particular dining hall would be inconvenienced one weekend a month; the staff of each dining hall would get a much-deserved weekend off every month; each dining hall would have a weekend to address problems that have come up without disrupting dining, as well as do any major cleaning, ordering, restocking, etc.; money could be more equally distributed to all three dining halls, with the money that would go to both Ross and Atwater for the weekends going instead to all three for operating expenses.

These are just a few of the benefits of splitting the weekend burden between the three dining halls instead of putting it upon Ross and Atwater. Besides all this, closing Proctor on the weekend is also completely antithetical to the commons system. Even those who do not agree with the goal of the commons can see that trying to accommodate the growing number of students with more dining halls isn't all bad. Variety is the spice of life, as the saying goes, and to have more than two options of places to eat was a welcome change. Now Middlebury wants Proctor to go the way of Freeman International Center, phasing it out, chopping off hours until we forget it even exists. Proctor may not be the beautifully designed and aesthetically pleasing tour stop that Ross and Atwater are, but it has a home in the hearts and stomachs of students here at Middlebury. Proctor deserves better than to be treated as second fiddle to them. I love Proctor, but I believe we all deserve to have the option of eating at whichever dining hall we choose. Keep Proctor Open.

SAGE BIERSTER '07
A HISTORY MAJOR
FROM DAPHNE, AL.

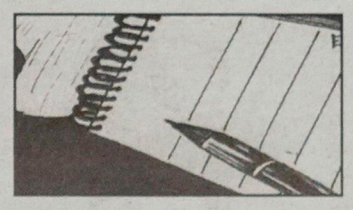
'Don't ask' policy okays descrimination

When the faculty discussed barring the military from recruiting on campus, some of my colleagues suggested that it would increase diversity in the military if they could recruit Middlebury students. On the one hand, I find it curious to use a "more diversity" argument to support a policy that explicitly excludes a whole class of people — homosexuals. The argument about more economic or educational diversity seems to segue into an argument that more Middlebury-type students in the military might make it a more tolerant institution. In a submission printed in *The Middlebury Campus* last week, Dan Morosani spelled out the second argument, suggesting that Middlebury students might "help to liberalize the military." Unfortunately, the students in the Marine Corp's Platoon Leaders Class program don't seem to be likely to do this. Morosani, for one, supports the policy. As we stood in silence in the cold that Wednesday — yes, there were faculty and staff in the protest — another student refused a flier as he walked by. "You don't want to give me that," he said, "I'm in the program." If more Middlebury students in the military will help to liberalize it, it is hard to see how from this small sample. I am also troubled by the refusal of a Middlebury student — like that of Capt. Doucette before — to really engage or study the issue at all — don't ask, don't tell, don't even look at the facts. I know there are more tolerant service members, and the military could simply demand that service members treat everyone equally, as it did with racial integration. Why is it that soldiers can be ordered to kill and be killed, but not to serve alongside a gay colleague? Is it really that much harder? Are we that much scarier than the enemy's weapons?

While there is opposition to allowing gays in the military both in the armed forces and in society, it is not, in fact, as strong as the opposition to integration was in the 40s. Now I think even Capt. Doucette would agree that a segregated military is wrong. Today not allowing gay men and lesbians to serve openly in the military is wrong. Blackmailing colleges and universities who stand up for their non-discrimination policies is wrong. Caving in to that blackmail is wrong.

To their credit, of my two dozen plus faculty colleagues who voted to give the military a special exception to our non-discrimination policy — special rights? — none spoke out in favor of discrimination or "Don't Ask Don't Tell." But I wonder if they would make the same arguments about "diversity," compromising with political realities, or bowing to financial or legal pressure if it were blacks or Jews being excluded. If they would and could still live with their consciences in that case, then fine. If not, though, I would urge them to consider why and to consider what that distinction means. Might they not be just a tiny little bit more willing to sacrifice the rights of our gay and lesbian students?

KEVIN MOSS
PROFESSOR OF RUSSIAN



NOTES
FROM THE DESK

It's not that bad. In fact, it's better than that, it's really quite good, and I'm sick and tired of hearing people complain about it. The Atwater dining hall has finally opened, and while I'm apparently in a severe minority, I'm extremely happy about it.

Is it perfect? No. Should that come as a shock? Absolutely not. The key fact here is that it has been open for less than three weeks. Anyone thinking that it should be a finely tuned, seamless operation while the paint is still drying in some corners is just unrealistic. What really gets me are the complaints about the quality of food, undeniably the primary function of a dining hall. Contrary to popular opinion, I think it's actually the best on campus. Does it have the variety of Ross or the panini machine of Proctor? No, but then it was never designed to be on the same scale as Ross and the panini machine might be around the corner anyway. In terms of quality of food, I've been hugely impressed and will confidently declare it the best of Middlebury's dining options.

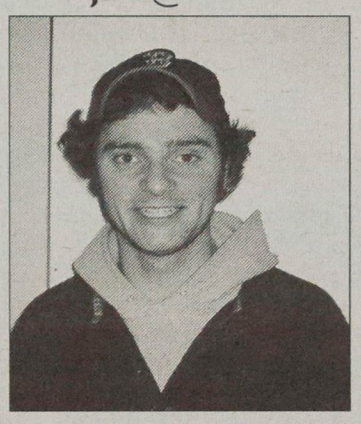
Aside from the food, I love the windows. Alright, so they don't quite offer the picturesque mountain views we were promised, but anyone there during the day can't help but be impressed by the amount of sunlight that floods in. For that reason alone, the windows are a great feature. The seating layout too, is second to none. Gone is the clambering over tables and chairs we saw at Freeman, replaced by an unmatched ease of movement. Being able to move effortlessly between tables not only gives it an attractive open look, but also makes it infinitely easier to stop at a friend's table as you walk by. There aren't too few tables at Atwater, there are too many tables everywhere else.

And finally, my favorite aspect of Atwater: Troy, the food guy. Always smiling, always welcoming and always willing to chat, he makes my dining experiences that much better. Everyone has their favorite dining hall worker, but anyone who's prepared to cook me a special dish on any given day will not have me naysaying about their place of work.

Simply put, it has been less than three weeks. It's not perfect yet, but it's absolutely not as bad as it's been made out to be, and I for one love the new Atwater dining hall.

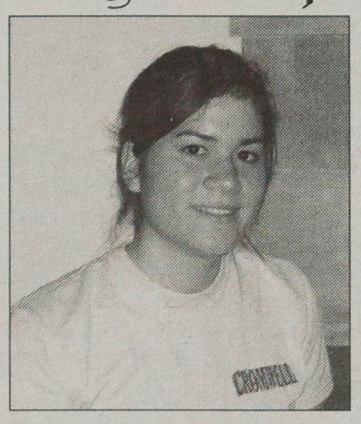
TOM MCCANN
SPORTS EDTIOR

The Middlebury Campus online poll



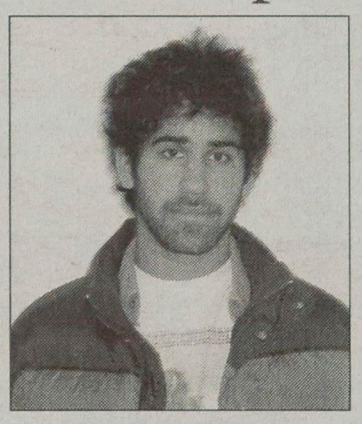
"I DON'T REALLY KNOW. I'M SURE IT SAVES THE COLLEGE SOME MONEY BUT IT IS A LOT NICER HAVING IT OPEN."

—BEN ROWE '06



"YES, WITHOUT A DOUBT. I THINK IT IS A CONSPIRACY TO DRIVE PEOPLE AWAY FROM PROCTOR."

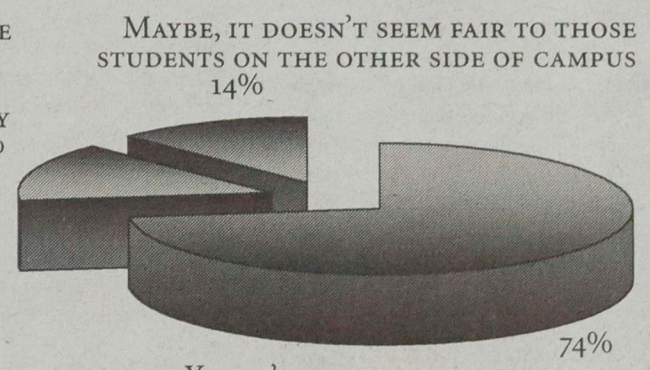
—TINA COLL '07.5



"YES, BECAUSE THERE'S FINE DINING TO BE HAD THERE. IT SEEMS STRANGE FOR IT TO BE OPEN FIVE DAYS A WEEK AND NOT WEEKENDS ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE IS A NEED FOR IT."

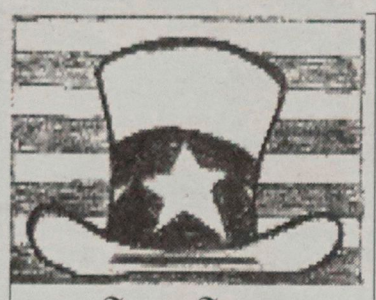
—JOŞHA NATHAN '08

SHOULD PROCTOR REMAIN OPEN ON THE WEEKEND?


NO, THREE DINING HALLS IS TOO MANY
12%
MAYBE, IT DOESN'T SEEM FAIR TO THOSE STUDENTS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF CAMPUS
14%
74%
YES, IT'S NOT FAIR TO STUDENTS IN BRAINERD AND WONNACOTT COMMONS

Results based on 96 responses collected between February 17 and 22 at www.middleburycampus.com

NEXT WEEK'S POLL QUESTION: DO YOU THINK NAPSTER IS WORTH THE EXTRA COST?



Sam Says
A Political Commentary
By Sam Wilson

Do you remember the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth? They were the anti-Kerry group during the campaign that had utterly nothing to do with truth, but everything to do with rather slanderous attempts to discredit a decorated war veteran.

Well, they are back — not the Vets themselves, but the politicos who designed their shameful smear. These consultants and strategists have been hired by a right-wing group, USA Next, to help the President sell his Social Security reform. USA Next is not planning on researching Social Security or trying to contribute in any meaningful way to the debate, but rather the group plans on barfing lies upon those that oppose the president's plan, namely the AARP. The AARP is a huge advocacy group for seniors. It does things like lobby lawmakers on behalf of the elderly, and provide benefits for its members, like discounts at hotels. It thinks that the President's Social Security plan is a bad idea, so it opposes the plan.

USA Next has decided that the best way to deal with this dilemma is to do everything it can to destroy the AARP. To do this, the group hired the Swift Boat consultants to concoct schemes to smear the AARP until the AARP becomes a filthy taboo, thus negating the AARP's power.

The early signs indicate that this campaign will have all of the integrity of the Swift Boat campaign. USA Next ran an Internet ad on the *American Spectator's* Web site that pictured a U.S. soldier, and two men in tuxedos kissing. The ad declared it showed "the real AARP agenda," as a red X flashed over the soldier and a green check mark flashed over the presumably just married homosexual couple. It also said you could click on the ad to learn more.

I do not know much about the AARP, but I was pretty sure that the group did not actively oppose our troops, and that it probably took no official position on gay marriage since that issue has little to do with seniors. So, curious, I clicked the ad and arrived at the USA Next Web site (www.usanext.org). I poked around for a bit but found neither anything about the AARP hating the military nor about the AARP supporting gay marriage. Mostly, the site seemed concerned with media coverage the group had received and a petition to get the Motion Picture Academy to name *The Passion of the Christ* best picture.

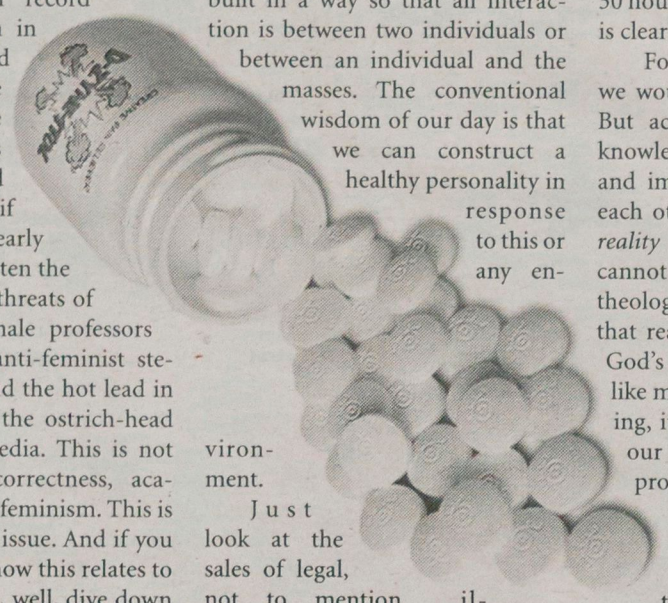
Still interested, I went to the AARP's Web site (www.aarp.org) to look for anything about these issues. Everything about veterans made it seem like the group support our troops and vets. And, as expected, I found not a thing about gay marriage.

I was forced to conclude that these Swift Boat strategists have not changed a bit, the ad was entirely without factual worth. It was telling in one way though — this Social Security debate is going to get ugly.

Incidentally, the *American Spectator* must have realized the obnoxiousness of the ad, because they have replaced it with another, less nauseating one.

Poppin' pills pulls plug on possibilities

I am outraged by what's going on at Harvard and on the Op-Ed pages of the major national newspapers right now. The president of Harvard, Lawrence Summers, meant to suggest a seemingly benign idea last month — maybe men and women's brains are different. He bumbled it and ended up seeming as if he believed this were fact. He also seemed to be justifying Harvard's dismal record of hiring women in mathematics and physics because of this. Here's the thing that makes me steamed though — even if he had said this clearly he would have gotten the same nausea and threats of swoons from female professors (looking for an anti-feminist stereotype?) there and the hot lead in the rectum from the ostrich-head pundits in the media. This is not about political correctness, academic freedom or feminism. This is an environmental issue. And if you can't understand how this relates to organic gardening, well, dive down the rabbit hole with me.



The reigning myth of our time, one of the fundamental truths of the anti-intellectual black hole that is postmodernism, is that the human mind is a product of society's imagination. The prevailing view is that socialization and self-determination construct what you are. This is perhaps one of the most dangerous things we could believe. If the human being is governed entirely by society and not by biology, we are no longer animals and our connection with the rest of the world that is not us, is dead.

Furthermore, this position is a cop out. Our society is built on manipulating our minds into wanting things that are not only unnecessary but contrary to our nature, like women with eight perecent body fat. Our so-called communities are built in a way so that all interaction is between two individuals or between an individual and the masses. The conventional wisdom of our day is that we can construct a healthy personality in response to this or any environment.

Just look at the sales of legal, not to mention illegal, drugs for a refutation of that. Anti-depressants are where the money is at these days along with the anti-impotence drugs. At this point one in five people in the U.S. will be diagnosed with a serious mental illness in their lifetime. Hordes of small children are given amphetamines. And let's not kid here — this is stuff that is one step away from crystal meth. Someone moving from a less developed area of a less developed country, say a rural Salvadoran immigrant to suburban D.C., increases their risk of mental illness, including schizophrenia, six times. Oh and in those same suburbs there were just two huge riots over a basketball game our team won. We are talking tear gas and broken legs and burning buildings kinds of riots. And 6 kids from a dead end suburb just burned down 30 houses for no reason. Something is clearly wrong here.

For us to correct this problem, we would have to acknowledge it. But acknowledging it means acknowledging that there are proper and improper ways of relating to each other and to the world. That *reality* is a set of constraints that cannot be superceded. This is what theologians mean when they say that real freedom lies in accepting God's laws. When a tree hugger like me advocates organic gardening, it is because the food makes our bodies function better, the process creates human happiness and the alternative is both alienating and carcinogenic. That is to say that though our current lifestyle is convenient, it does not and cannot work because it denies nature. And by nature I don't mean bunny rabbits and such, I mean the laws of reality.

Part of this dilemma is that if we are still animals, which we are, then obviously there are evolutionary limits to what we can do and differences between the male and the female of the species. Does this mean we need to explicitly draw the boundaries? No. We don't know where the lines are. But we need to be actively seeking them out because crossing them brings mental and physical disease.

The problem with this approach and why our liberating liberal society has abolished it, is that it has been used in the past for pernicious and oppressive purposes. It's quite clear that the assumption that women couldn't seriously do math, which is certainly completely false, is the main reason there are less women in that discipline. But why are there fewer girls who, at age 10, have rediscovered differential equations and multivariable calculus even though they can barely speak to other people?

More importantly, why is clinical depression such a major cause of lost productivity? Could it be that our minds don't want to produce something that has no meaning and no value?

The upshot of this whole situation is that Larry Summers is a jerk and so his idea, however poorly phrased, is getting stuck down with his poor people skills. The uproar is not so much about him being sexist, though, as much as it is about him suggesting that perhaps the conventional wisdom by which we justify our sick society is actually an illusion. And that, for even the casual environmentalists out there, is serious cause for concern.

BEN GORE '05
AN ES/CREATIVE NON-FICTION MAJOR
FROM GAITHERSBURG, MD.

Middlebury's true color of diversity

Having been actively involved in the effort to change Middlebury's protocol for recruiters who do not sign the College's non-discrimination policy, I would like to respond to several of the criticisms directed at the protestors of the policy, and those who feel inclined to not allow recruiters representing organizations that discriminate on campus.

First, the military was not previously prohibited from openly recruiting on campus. The same policy has existed for almost 15 years, allowing them to recruit on campus after the minor formality of holding a meeting to discuss their hiring practices. Before the early 1990's, the military was spared even this small inconvenience. The only restriction keeping Captain Doucette in the Grille and away from Career Services Office (CSO) was his own lack of awareness regarding College policy.

Secondly, I wholeheartedly agree that the extreme rightward polarization of the military is a disturbing trend. However, while facilitating the liberalization of the military by giving it more direct access to Middlebury's students might sound nice, it is my opinion that the few students who set up meetings with Captain Doucette during his recent visit will do little to dilute the "conservative environment" of the nation's largest employer. What will make a difference is a substantial body of citizens who refuse to condone their own military, funded by their own tax dollars, "represented" by their delegates (where was the vote?) incorporating a message of discrimination into their rhetoric about freedom and equality.

Not that Middlebury students could not greatly contribute to their country's efforts, or produce some effect on the military's belief system.

Although the gentleman who wrote on this issue last week apparently would not change the policy on the right of homosexuals to say they are homosexual without being punished, I agree that students from Middlebury's language program could be an enormous asset to the military, particularly because some military employees are discharged for reasons entirely unrelated to their professional skills.

The question remains, does Middlebury College want to provide a talent pool to an organization that illogically and whimsically discharges perfectly qualified individuals based on the prejudice of those in charge of, or part of, that organization? Does everyone's private life have to be a part of their job? For example, if homosexuals are silenced, shouldn't we silence everyone about talking about their personal lives — their spouses, their kids, their home — because something about it may offend someone?

'...we wanted to draw attention to the injustice represented by and endemic to the military...'

The military's policy is, in a word, ridiculous. I would encourage anyone who has not to read the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy to see just how insubstantial the military's justifications for discrimination are.

But I want to emphasize that the point for many students who objected to Captain Doucette's presence on campus was not entirely the military's policy, but more importantly, that of Middlebury College. No one was trying to stop Middlebury students interested in serving their country. That would be absurd. Instead we wanted to draw attention to the injustice represented by and endemic to the military as well as Middlebury's own policy.

We have one of the most progressive non-discrimination policies in the country and yet it does not affect outside organizations that desire to visit this campus. The most substantial deterrent within the policy is that recruiters might have to arrive on campus a little bit earlier than they might have planned — to explain discrimination. That's it.

There is no secondary requirement after this meeting, no minimum standard, no restricted use of College facilities. There isn't a clause requiring employers not to discriminate against women — as long as they hold a meeting to tell us about it. African-Americans? Same deal — hold a meeting and you can ignore them all you want. Somehow this doesn't seem to mesh with the stream of diversity rhetoric spoon-fed to all prospective students by the Admissions Office. Why is it that all potential recruiters are even asked to sign a policy when Middlebury can simply refuse? Has Middlebury's commitment to diversity really shriveled into nothing more than a paper tiger? A clear line must be drawn.

The good news is that this is a fantastically easy policy to change. Employers who cannot sign Middlebury's non-discrimination policy should not be allowed to recruit on campus.

Whether the employer's policy is "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" or "White Supremacy!" it should not matter. A policy is a policy. Period. The faculty has already voted 2 to 1 to eliminate this loophole. The next step is President Liebowitz, who I am sure is as committed to extinguishing discrimination as we all are. But like all of us, he may need a little bit of encouragement to remind him of how important it is to act on this issue as soon as possible. I urge every member of the College community — students, faculty, staff, alumni and parents — who is uncomfortable with Middlebury's current policy permitting discriminatory organizations to contact President Liebowitz to personally express your distaste with the way things stand.

SEAN RAMSDELL '05
A BIOLOGY MAJOR
FROM ASHBURN, MA.

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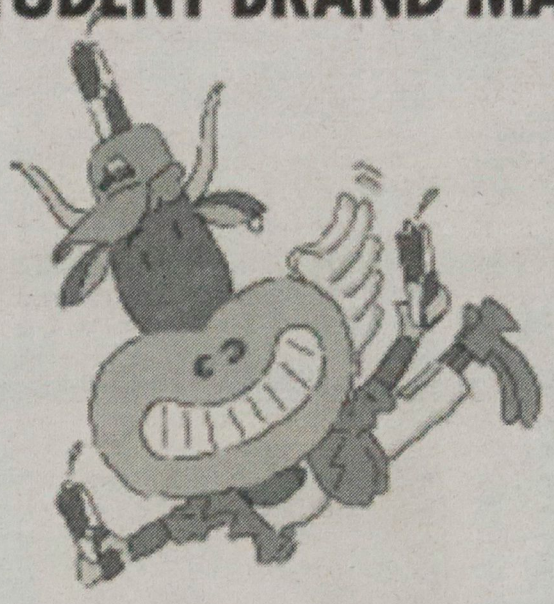

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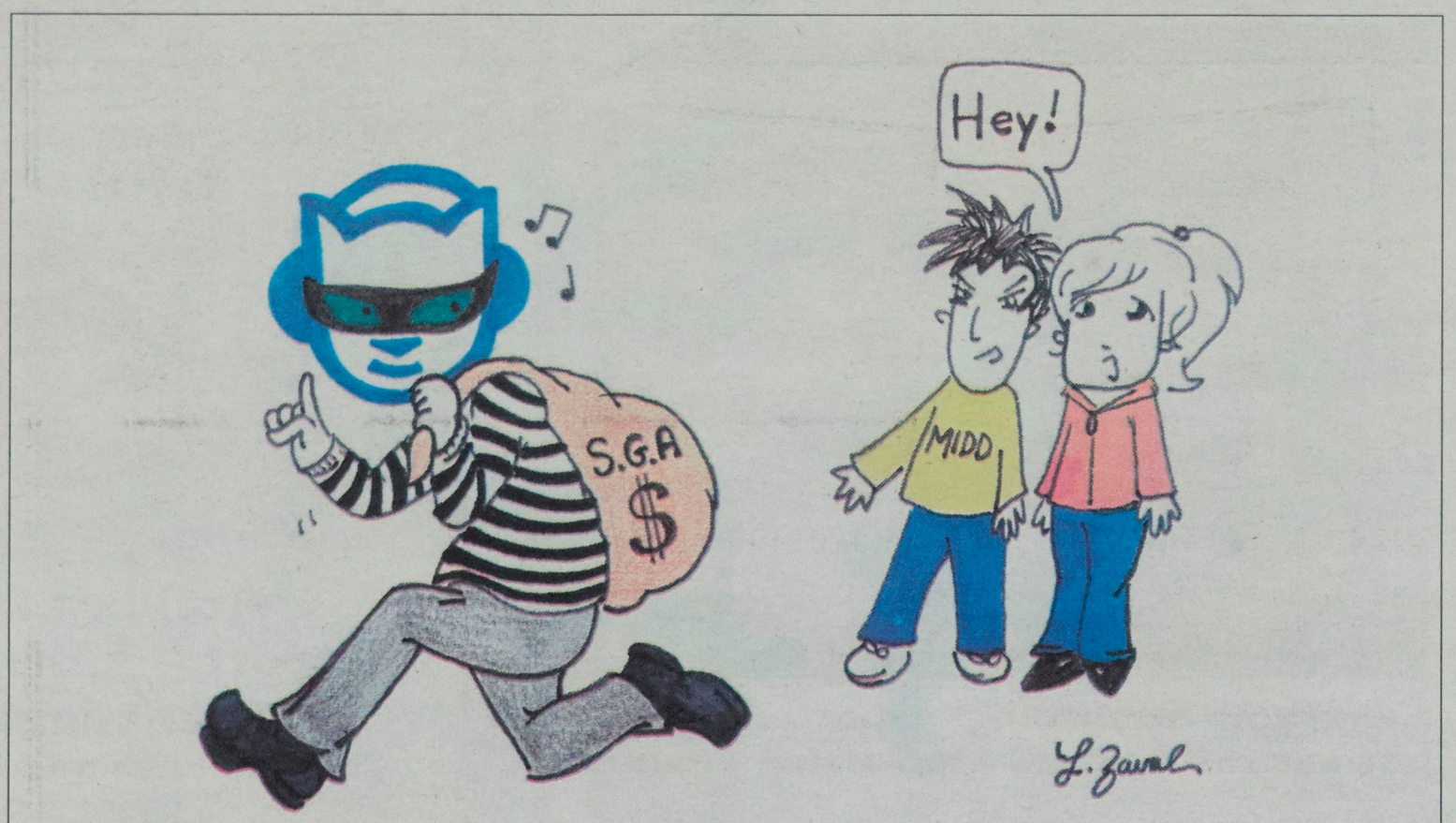
campus in-depth

judgingnapster

SGA signs students up for more Napster



Lisa Zaval

Music service draining student activities fee

By Ben Salkowe
Special Projects Editor

A committee of students from the Student Government Association (SGA) and Middlebury College Activities Board (MCAB) has decided to extend the College's agreement with Napster, the streaming music service for students being funded through the student activities fee (SAF). "Based on the results of [a] survey and the data we are able to compile about how many students use the service and how many songs they download, it became apparent to us that there was certainly a demand to continue with a downloadable music service," said SGA President Andrew Jacobi '05.

What most students surveyed did not know, however, was the amount of money being paid to Napster for its service. Napster's contracts require schools not to tell students how much their service costs. "Contractually we're not supposed to tell what we pay," said Dave Donahue, associate dean of library and information services.

While Napster refuses to let schools discuss the program's cost with students, *The Campus* has learned that the SGA allocated $10,000 this year for Napster and is predicting an annual cost of $20,000 to continue the offering Napster next year. Although only 50 percent of the campus uses the Napster service, all students pay for it through the SAF, an annual $220 fee which all students are required to pay for funding of student organizations. The SAF was raised $20 this year, however according to Doug Adams, director of the Center for Campus Activities and Leadership, that increase was to cover giving yearbooks at no cost to all seniors.

The actual cost of providing service for every student is believed to have been just under $40,000, however an unidentified outside sponsor paid part of the costs, and not all students took advantage of the service. None of the students or administrators involved in the agreement would name the sponsor — some of the program's extreme critics believe the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) sponsors Napster college programs in their first year to encourage well-known schools to join the program. Napster did not respond to several requests for comment on this article.

Next year it is expected that the SGA will have to pay the full costs of the program, meaning the SAF may need to be raised once again, or other programs funded by the fee may have to be cut. None of the students or administrators interviewed would provide firm details of the program's cost next year, however Jacobi estimated it was "likely" that "we would pay around $20,000 next year since some PC users won't register and we already have enough iTunes vouchers from this year for Mac users."

Napster cracks down on leaks

Most of the students at colleges across the country where Napster has been implemented are also kept in the dark about how much the program costs — intentionally. When Ohio University surveyed its

Students question necessity of Napster

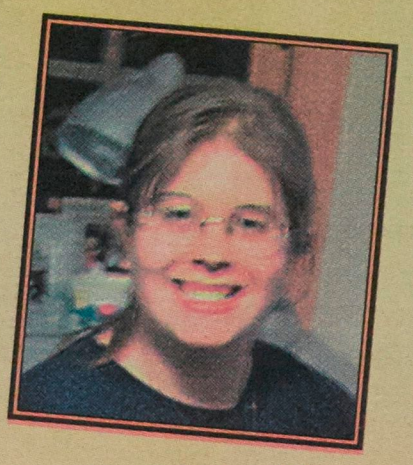
Photos and Interviews by Amanda Goodwin and Ben Salkowe

Ryan Cohen '07

What do you think of Napster?
"As a service it is mediocre because it doesn't have a lot of music I listen to, that I can find easily using other services."

Would you support raising the student activities fee to pay for Napster?
"No. If people are interested, then let them sign up themselves."

Should the SGA be paying for Napster?
"No. They had a vote last year that showed students wanted it... but I think if certain people want it, they should sign up on their own, since one-third of the campus does not use Napster."

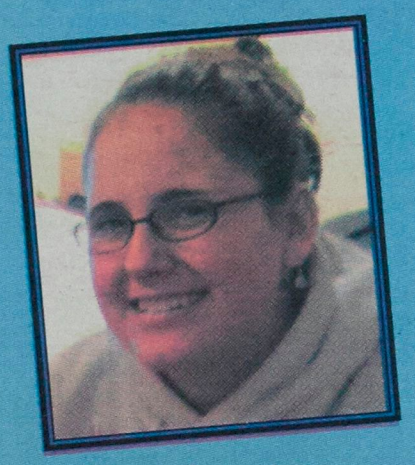


Lindsay Oliver '07

What do you think of Napster?
"I like it, I use it a lot. It's a really convenient way to download music."

Would you support raising the student activities fee to pay for Napster?
"Within reason. I would — as long as the price is reasonable."

Should the SGA be paying for Napster?
"Yeah, if there's enough student support for it."



Marissa Sharpe '07.5

What do you think of Napster?
"I think that Napster used to be cool when it was illegal."

Would you support raising the student activities fee to pay for Napster?
"No, because no one uses it. More people use iTunes as a means of discovering music."

Should the SGA be paying for Napster?
"No. There are so many better things to be spending the money on than Napster."

Mixed feelings on costly music service

continued from opposite page

JACOB WHITCOMB '06

What do you think of Napster?
"I use it. It's worthwhile if people aren't looking to download to an iPod."

Would you support raising the student activities fee to pay for Napster?
"I think instead we should push the cost onto the freshman team dues."

Should the SGA be paying for Napster?
"Really, the money would be better used on something like expanding club sports at Middlebury."

KATHRYN BABIN '07

What do you think of Napster?
I like it. I like that I found the "Fresh Prince of Bel Air" theme song and "Pump Up" mix by Arnold Schwarzenegger — all at my fingertips.

Would you support raising the student activities fee to pay for Napster?
Yeah, I guess.

Should the SGA be paying for Napster?
I do, except there are people who can't use it and that makes me feel guilty.

DAPHNE LASKY '07

What do you think of Napster?
I have a Mac. It's pretty.

Would you support raising the student activities fee to pay for Napster?
No.

Should the SGA be paying for Napster?
It wouldn't be my first choice but I have no major objection.

students about a possible Napster program last year, the administrators *did* mention the costs of the program — which were similar to Middlebury's. Napster quickly contacted the institution and told them to stop disclosing its fees.

"They did not present us with a nondisclosure agreement when we began negotiating with them, nor did they ask informally that we keep the details confidential," Sean O'Malley, Ohio University's IT communications manager, told *The Campus*. "Thus, we thought we were fine in releasing our numbers."

Ohio University proposed offering the service by only billing students who used it, rather than taking it from a required fee which all students pay. "Fee and tuition increases are a major issue with Ohio students, so we did not wish to add yet another mandatory fee to the students' bills," said O'Malley.

O'Malley said the survey of students was not overwhelmingly positive, and only half of the students responding said they would subscribed to such a Napster service. Ultimately, Ohio chose to partner with Cdigix, one of Napster's competitors.

"Cdigix offered much better terms than Napster and also seemed to have a better handle on the college marketplace. The availability of movies through their service was a definite plus," said O'Malley. He added that students have been happy with the program and they plan to continue offering it next year.

Students unsure about use of fee

Other institutions which have adopted Napster's program have also chosen to fund the program through required student fees. At Pennsylvania State University, one of the first schools to implement Napster and use required student fees to fund it, the program angered with some students.

"Almost every single student I have talked to is outraged that their money is going to a program that they don't even want," Joe Jarzab, a Penn State senior told CNET news, adding, "Their money is being sent to the music industry without their consent." Jarzab and other students posted fliers on the campus attempting to inform students.

Officials at Penn State would not disclose how much the University paid Napster. "The business contract between Penn State and Napster is not something we can disclose publicly, that is part of our agreement with Napster," said Tysen Kendig, manager of the News Bureau at Penn State, to *The Campus*. Penn State offers Napster to all 80,000+ of its students — if the University paid Napster the same rate as Middlebury, such a contract could be more than $1.5million. Kendig refused to confirm or deny the figure.

Because Middlebury also pays Napster through a required student fee, the program here is also raising the question of whether all students should pay for a service that only some of the campus uses. When asked what they thought, and told the costs, most students were not as enthusiastic as those surveyed by the SGA without reference to cost.

When asked whether she liked Napster, Elizabeth Hammet '05 said, "Yes and no. I think it's frustrating because you can use it, and you still have to buy the songs to burn them or download them on your [mp3 player]."

When told the SGA would likely spend $20,000 to maintain the service next year and asked if she thought that was appropriate, Hammett said, "Hell no, definitely not. There are much better things to spend that much money on than a privileged rich kid thing."

Speaking on Napster, Caitlin Dennis '06.5 said, "I think it's good. Definitely, because of it, I don't download illegal music." When asked if she thought it was appropriate for the SGA to pay for Napster, Dennis said it was as valid as spending money to bring in bands. But when told of the program's price tag and asked if she still supported it, Dennis said, "No. Probably not. I don't think so."

The students and administrators who organized Napster on campus countered that such services are what the SAF was meant for.

"That's all that the [SAF] is for the most part. It is supporting student groups but there are things that are for the most part entertainment-based and not strictly academic," said Leslie Wade '04.5, one of the original students to work on the Napster initiative at Middlebury.

The program itself

Beyond the question of whether the College should pay for a program, is whether Napster is the best program to be had.

"We looked extensively at all of Napster's competitors and had each of them come to Middlebury and present demos to us," said Jacobi. "I think the consensus was that Napster has been so easy to work with from our point of view, and we really couldn't see anything that the other companies offered that was all that impressive. Napster's program seemed to be the best fit for what we were looking at for Middlebury students."

"We looked at four providers: Cdigix, Ruckus and Rhapsody," said Adams. "It [Napster] is as good as or better than the others, and our primary concern was music." Adams said that other companies did not offer the large catalog of music found with Napster, and services that included movie features cost more. (*see* SIDEBAR)

Students interviewed expressed frustrations with some of Napster's limitations. Many users in general were bothered by the lack of support for Macs or iPods — the program reimburses these users with 15 free songs on iTunes. Tamara Vatnick '07 said she was frustrated with some of Napster's technical restrictions. "It's kind of annoying because you can buy music and only use the burned CDs on one computer," she said. Vatnick did feel that it was appropriate for the SGA to spend money on Napster though, seeing it no different from any other entertainment the fee might be used for.

Most of Napster's competitors also do not support Macs or iPods, and carry identical or similar restrictions on the copying and burning of purchased music. Some competitors offer streaming movies in addition music, but in general the movie selections offered by those services were considered meager by the SGA and MCAB. "When the technology and licensing gets better and we have the option of offering students a better selection of movies for a lower price, we will reconsider those proposals," said Jacobi.

Another option to the streaming music and movie services is the "iTunes on Campus" program. Colleges using this program distribute the iTunes software, which allows students to copy music from their CDs, purchase tracks for 99 cents from an online store and then freely share their music collections over the college network. The program costs schools nothing unless they want to offer students free downloads to start their collections, and only costs students money if they want to buy something they do not have or cannot find in other students' collections.

The students and administrators looking at services stopped considering iTunes last fall, determining that a few students might end up buying all the music, and other students would just be listening to other people's collections.

Questions remaining

Looking ahead, the general consensus among those involved in the Napster program was that students should consider whether this was something they wanted to spend money on.

"I'm not completely sold on it to be sure," said Wade. "This year was a good way to be in a pilot program. I'm not completely sold that a program should be paid through a required fee."

Wade thought it might be useful to have a survey this spring or a referendum on the issue during the SGA elections.

Donahue agreed that at this point the program should be re-evaluated, saying that this year it "was a pretty cost effective way to experiment with a new music service." But he cautioned that in light of increased costs next year the College might ask, "Is this the best way to use this money?"

the others

While Napster is perhaps one of the best known music services being implemented on college campuses, the company is hardly alone. Four prominent companies provide streaming music programs and were considered by the SGA. Some services go beyond music to offer movies, television, sports and news. Compared below are some of the major players in campus streaming entertainment services.

CDIGIX
COLLEGE ON DEMAND

Courtesy

Cdigix says it provides "on-demand" hit movies, television programs, music, sports, classic and indie films direct to students' computers. Their self-defined mission: "offer college students compelling content that they enjoy and frequently access."

According to the Middlebury students and administrators who saw Cdigix's presentation, however, the service is not all it claims to be. A quick look at Cdigix Web site show's some of the amazing "hit movies:" Jet Li's "Hero," Kate Hudson in "Raising Helen" and "The Hole."

RUCKUS NETWORK

Courtesy

Ruckus was the "brainchild" of two Massachussets Institute of Technology students who wanted to offer a better way for college students to access digital media.

"We offer students thousands of hours of one click entertainment, national, local and campus-based programming," says Ruckus' Web site. Ruckus offers 2.5 million minutes of music, and, like Cdigix, also offers "blockbuster" movies.

Rhapsody

Courtesy

"RHAPSODY is the celestial jukebox that gives you unlimited access to thousands of albums right from your PC," says the Rhapsody Web site. The program is essentially the same as Napster and did not impress students.

iTunes

Courtesy

Apple's iTunes music store is not discussed much as an option for the College, but the company does offer a campus program where schools can freely distribute iTunes to students, and students can freely share their music over the network. If students want something they do not have, it costs 99 cents, but unlike Napster, songs become the property of the students. Music does not expire when students leave college. The program works on all computers and is free to the college, but leaves the possibility that some students will be buying all the music and everyone else will just be listening.

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Midd celebrates Black History Month

Visiting speakers shed light on issues of social inequality

By Angelica Towne
Staff Writer

Without effort and planning, Black History Month may be nothing more than plain-old February with a couple of Martin Luther King Jr. pictures. The month may come only with faint whispers of popular names like Malcolm X, Rosa Parks and Jackie Robinson. This year, however, in an effort to up awareness about black history and African-American issues, the Middlebury College African-American Alliance (AAA) presented a series of three lectures on various aspects of Black Culture to bring the lessons of black history to the table of today's student activists.

Each lecturer used the history of black activism to challenge the College community to work for a better future. "When we chose the lectures," said Alexis Zain '05, president of the AAA, "we wanted to emphasize that Black History Month is about more than African-Americans — it's about political and social movements across the board." Zain stressed her opinion that Black History Month should inspire any group who feels they are the victim of social inequality, and therefore "needs to be an institutional celebration with more community and faculty involvement."

The first event presented was on black professionalism and attempted to build bridges between minority students and minority faculty. Panel members Professor of History Don Wyatt, Associate Dean of Student Affairs Marichal Gentry and Twilight Artist-in-Residence François Clemmons expounded on their experiences as minorities in a predominately white environment. Each professional shared personal stories of their journey to success at Middlebury College. They cited numerous examples of opportunities available despite the reality of continued prejudice and discrimination.

"By the end, I really felt like I knew these amazingly successful men," said Brian Willis '07, treasurer of AAA. "The whole room was laughing and sharing. I never thought I could be so inspired by someone I see almost every day."

The second lecturer, Robin Hayes, an activist and filmmaker pursuing a doctorate in African-American Studies at Yale University, urged the entire Middlebury community to consolidate behind its common interests. Her message to Middlebury was simple — "Organize!" She said, "Often, people think of Black activism as a phenomenon that climaxed in the Civil Rights movement and has since died out. But, this is only true if we let it be true." Hayes maintained that the civil rights leaders were not demigods, but people with a true commitment to the cause of social change. These past leaders embodied what she called the three essentials to being an effective leader — sincerity, solidarity and sacrifice.

The whole room was sharing and laughing. I never thought I could be so inspired by someone I see everyday.

— Brian Willis '07

Kolbe Franklin '08 said of the lecture, "Her message was universally applicable. Malcolm X was willing to risk everything for the cause he believed in, the least I can do is get involved."

Kevin Tierney '08, was particularly inspired by the way Hayes emphasized the importance of protests and how commitment to small battles can truly affect progress. He admitted, "In high school, I spent so much time bettering my own cause that I was totally unaware of other people's causes. Being a white guy in a black culture group, I felt I needed to show my support and appreciation for a history so intimately intertwined with my own. And I don't just do it 28 days out of the year!"

The final lecture of the series, delivered by Rosa Clemente, one of the most sought after speakers in New England, also addressed this topic of unmitigated commitment. Clemente, a black Puerto Rican grassroots organizer, journalist and entrepreneur explained her theory of scholar-activism — activism with a deep understanding of black history, world politics and liberal values. On a campus with purposefully politically neutral professors, Clemente's "balance of the extremely political and professional" was applauded by audience members.

Clemente also asserted that Black History Month should be used to not only celebrate black leaders, but also to celebrate the international hip-hop generation. She spoke of the capabilities that individuals (even at Middlebury College) have to work together through hip-hop to find the solutions to our own problems. She questioned with a laugh, "Who would have ever guessed that middle-America would fall in love with a character like Puff Daddy?" She passionately continued, "Hip-hop is a phenomenal, unifying force that can be utilized to solve the problems of our increasingly criminalized, increasingly misled and increasingly politically complacent generation. We have to become participatory in our nation's want for democracy!"

She suggested, for instance, that Middlebury College participate in the newly formed National Hip-hop Political Convention. AAA member Charzetta Nixon '06 reflected, "I'm glad to hear I'm not the only one who feels Hip-hop should go back to its roots of a social and political voice. It's so much more than club music and Eminem." Secretary of AAA, Christine Etienne '07, echoed this enthusiasm, stating, "I feel motivated as a political poet to do what I can! Rosa was truly a muse."

As the speakers demonstrated, Black History Month is not just a time allocated for the rehashing of the crimes of a nation or for the dry repetition of the same heroes' names. It is a time to celebrate the past and apply it to our present and future. So, if at the very least, the Black History Month lectures only succeeded in adding the names Assata Shakur, James Baldwin and Benjamin Bannecker to the list of known African-American heroes, that's still a great feat.

Poet advocates self-respect and equality

By Addason McCaslin
Staff Writer

The month of February is perhaps the coldest time of the year, but it is warmed by a celebration of acceptance and equality. February has historically been a month of great advancements in the Civil Rights movements. The 15th amendment of the U. S. Constitution was passed on Feb. 3, 1870, extending the right to vote all males regardless of race, and in February of 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson established Negro History Week to honor the American citizens who had previously been omitted from our history books. Now, Black History Month is celebrated as the offspring of the once nascent notion of equality embodied in Negro History Week.

Black History Month is alive and vibrant at Middlebury College, from the biographies of great African-Americans that dot dining hall tables, to the numerous events and gatherings that are held across campus. According to Twilight Artist-in-Residence François Clemmons, the month is "an opportunity for many of the students to learn the history of black Americans here in America and what we have contributed to the larger society." Clemmons, who is an active participant in the College's celebration of Black History Month, firmly believes that knowledge of black history is an essential component of a strong education and, therefore, deserves prominence at Middlebury College.

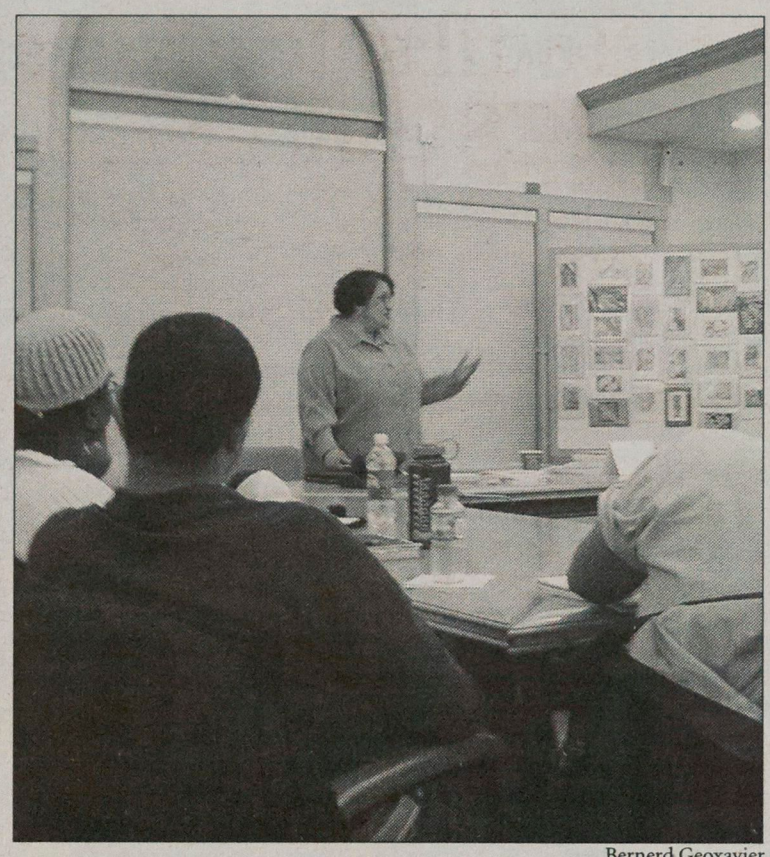
On Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2005, Middlebury hosted the renowned poet and artist Sandra María Esteves, a Puerto Rican-Dominican-Boriqueña-Quisqueyana-Taino-African-American advocate for equality and cultural cooperation. Esteves is a prominent figure in the Nuyorican (Nu-your-EEK-en) poetry movement which is in part derived from Puerto Rican, African, Caribbean, Spanish and American cultures. She read several of her poems for an assembly of Middlebury students and faculty, but her words held beauty and wisdom beyond that contained in her poetry.

She spoke of her origins as a silenced child, forced to repress her Puerto Rican heritage in the schools she attended, and her resulting journey to realize her passions for both literary and visual art forms. The silence imposed on her as a child caused her to express herself through her artwork. In time, she became an outspoken voice for equality of cultural groups and people of all kinds — men, women, old, young, black and white. She encouraged the students present to express themselves and to have their voices heard even when it may seem like nobody is listening.

Mrs. Esteves' words touched every member of the audience in some way. She emphasized the need to always be supportive of yourself and your inner worth, saying, "It's who you are on the inside. Deal with who you know yourself to be and honor that, and make that the best you can make that be." Esteves' presentation was not only a poetry reading and a political statement, but also a call to realize the value and potential intrinsic within us all.

"She made a lot of points I could relate to," said Carlos Beato '07. "I thought about how I am perceived as a person, my skin color and how I perceive myself."

The value of Black History Month and events such as Mrs. Esteves' presentation are indisputable. But Marichal Gentry, associate dean of student affairs, encouraged community members not to limit celebration of the many contributions made by African Americans to the month of February.



Bernerd Geoxavier

Poet and visual artist Sandra María Esteves shared own story in one of the many events sponsored for Black History Month by AAA in February.

Journalist and lawyer Jeff Toobin talks politics

Nirvana Bhatia

Jeffrey Toobin spoke to a packed room in BiHall on Monday with his wife, Amy, and two children in the front row.

By Matt Kunzweiler
Staff Writer

Jeffrey Toobin, CNN senior legal analyst, staff writer for the *New Yorker* and bestselling author of "Too Close to Call: The Thirty-Six-Day Battle to Decide the 2000 Election," spoke to an overcrowded lecture room in McCardell Bicentennial Hall on Monday afternoon.

Longtime friend and Middlebury Scholar in Residence Bill McKibben introduced Toobin as someone uniquely able to "cross the boundaries between elite and mass journalism." As Toobin took the floor, this became immediately apparent — he covered a wide range of legal cases with noticeable ease and charisma, making his topics accessible to all members of the audience.

Toobin's lecture covered two main topics. First, he addressed the way in which high-profile legal cases have occupied the media's focus since the O.J. Simpson trial. Second, he discussed how politicians have been proved more and more willing to use the legal system as a battleground to settle issues split down party lines.

Toobin pointed to the O.J. Simpson trial as the media event responsible for inspiring the public's infatuation with high-profile celebrity trials — or "entertainments." The O.J. spectacle involved almost every one of America's favorite preoccupations — "Hollywood, sports, sex and violence."

The trial "created its own demand," said Toobin. Before O.J., the job of television legal analyst did not exist. After the public learned that courtroom drama could be just as engrossing as any other news story — or daytime drama, for that matter — the media has been eager to meet this new demographic. Monica, Martha and Kobe have all been drenched by the media's spotlight. And even the Scott Peterson trial — "a celebrity trial without a celebrity" — has received ample attention. Toobin joked that ever since the public's fascination with O.J. "there has been a 'trial of the century' almost every year."

Toobin then discussed what he called "the merged political/legal event," which refers to any case where politicians have sought to settle bipartisan disputes through the legal system. These events often concern "public interest issues" such as abortion, the environment and gay marriage. He acknowledged that the media's recent attention to celebrity trials has helped make political cases more accessible to the average viewer, as the pop trials have helped familiarizedaudiences with courtroom vocabulary and the legal system.

In these merged political/legal events, Toobin claimed that Republicans have exhibited a "ruthlessness" unrivaled by Democrats. As critical as this may seem, Toobin admitted that the Republicans' legal strategies have been highly effective in achieving their desired ends, compared to the Democrats' relative passivity in this regard. This has been demonstrated by the Clinton impeachment, the 2000 presidential election recount and the Gray Davis recall.

Commenting on the current state of television news, Toobin mentioned that network news viewership has fallen in recent years, while cable news ratings are on the rise. He noted that Fox News offers a "European" approach (that is, a perspective influenced by a certain political party). When asked whether CNN would ever become the left alternative, counterbalancing Fox News, Toobin assured the audience that CNN's mission has been to hold an objective middle ground, and he could see no reason for this to change.

Those who heard Toobin's lecture were unanimously impressed by his presence and knowledge, but many of the college students in the audience were more interested in the journalistic process than the specific legal cases. Toobin addressed this quickly, explaining that the greatest challenge of writing for the *New Yorker* is often coming up with story ideas that will not be featured in the *New York Times* or on the local nightly news.

Toobin was, however, dealing with a somewhat divided audience — the older, non-student audience members ended up dominating the question and answer session by asking for Toobin's wisdom on a number of specific legal cases in the news.

Although he could not offer greatly detailed perceptions into these issues due to time constraints and the variety of questions, Toobin was still able to offer impressive insights with the succinctness of a true television pro.

Daffodil sale grows funds for ACS cancer research

By Andrea Glaessner
Staff Writer

In New England, daffodils are the first flowers to bloom when the snow melts, the ground thaws and spring arrives. But even before spring's official arrival on March 21, Middlebury College will see an abundance of daffodils. For some, these flowers will merely bring a nice touch of color to mud season, but for cancer patients and survivors, daffodils are a symbol of hope.

According to the Director of Alliance for Civic Engagement Tiffany Sargent, the College has sporadically participated in this fundraising effort over the past 10 years. The program was initially coordinated by Cook Professor of American Literature Brett Millier and Dean of Advising and Assistant Professor of American Literature Karl Lindholm. In recent years, the fundraiser was not held on campus, but this year Alyssa Thurston '05 single-handedly brought it back to the college community through her work on the Alliance for Civic Engagement.

Daffodil Days provided students the chance to order individual bouquets of 10 daffodils for $7 each, Gifts of Hope for $20 or boxes of 50 bouquets for $350.00 with the profits benefiting the American Cancer Society (ACS). Gifts of Hope are orders of daffodils purchased by sponsors and then given to hospitalized cancer patients. Thurston said, "The most popular orders are definitely the individual bouquets, though we've also sold a lot of Gifts of Hope, which is a really nice surprise." She also indicated that while students purchased flowers, the majority of orders came from faculty and staff members.

So, how much money will the daffodils raise for the worthy cause? "I didn't have a set goal in mind in terms of fundraising when I took this on, but I will say that the amount of orders I've gotten so far have far exceeded my initial expectations," Thurston noted.

Daffodil Days, a fundraising effort conceived by the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) in the 1950s, was adopted by the ACS in 1970. When it originated in Toronto, a group of CCS volunteers organized a fundraising tea and decorated their tables with daffodils, viewing the flowers' brilliant yellow as filling the room with sentiments of hope and faith that cancer could be defeated. Such teas became known as Daffodil Teas and the CCS's use of daffodils has not yet waned. Today, the organization is the world's largest purchaser of daffodils. British Columbian daffodil growers even schedule their planting to provide for the Society's enormous spring demand.

In the 35 years since the ACS adopted the fundraising practice, it has become one of the two largest cancer fundraising efforts in the United States, providing over $2.5 billion for research.

Many members of the Middlebury community are also avid supporters. Local resident John Meakin and his wife have been involved with Daffodil Days in Middlebury for the past decade. They began their involvement in Delaware where they raised $8,000 during their first year. Local businesses including Blossom Basket, Middlebury Natural Foods Co-Op and the Middlebury Farm Center will also sell daffodils to benefit the ACS beginning March 21.

The daffodils arrive on campus on March 16 and will be available for pick-up in the Alliance for Civic Engagement office.

Courtesy

More than a symbol of warm weather, daffodils represent hope for cancer patients and activists who will raise fun-ds through the sale of the flowers to support cancer research.

BY MATT KUNZWEILER

We all know that countless students show up to college ready to reinvent themselves. Whether or not this is done consciously, these aspiring socialites all attempt to manufacture a vaguely similar persona for themselves. They want to be "chill."

In college, there is no greater compliment than being called "chill" — a term that has lost its currency because of the student body's willingness to apply it to anyone who goes with the flow, listens to Phish or wears sandals when it's a lil' chilly.

Yeah, that guy is totally chill. He just likes to chill. You know. Kick back, drink a few brews, but not overdoing it. I mean, he's been known to rock out on occasion and drink more than a few, but he's chill about it. You know. You can always drop by his pad and just BS for a while, but if you want to get serious and talk about life and philosophy and maybe even God, he won't shy away. But yeah, he's just chill.

This is the "chill ideal," a state where a person needs only expend little or zero effort to appear affable and socially benign. (Some level of marijuana use is implied.) There is a charming passivity, and people are attracted to the young men and women who possess these characteristics since they are so fantastically difficult to piss off. We appreciate this in our friends.

I don't know if I could ever fulfill the chill ideal. If you have read this column more than once, you might have discovered that I have a few offensive opinions, which I don't always hide too well, and in addition to this, I am capable of stressing out because of my school work. This disqualifies me. But I'm working on it. Only, by working on it, I'll be expending energy towards the goal of being chill. This won't work. Being chill is all about expending zero energy — a catch-22 for those of us who like to give it our all.

But there are imposters among us. Those who go thrift store shopping with the goal of assembling a wardrobe that advertises a laid-back attitude — a perfect coordination of colors, patterns and fabrics that add up to an effortless, preternatural sense of style. These same people will invest 20 solid minutes in the morning styling their hair so that it looks like they woke up five minutes before class. If asked by a friend if they use a hair product, they will blame the lustrous quality of their hair on the fact that they haven't shampooed in a couple of days.

Chill is the new cool and everybody wants in. But I'm suspicious now. "Chill" may be a façade, hiding the fact that someone is jaded, spastic, twisted, desperate or otherwise human. Don't be fooled by the Miles Davis poster in my room.

Comedy Night brings in the laughs

By Lauren Armstrong
Staff Writer

Last Friday's Middlebury College Activities Board (MCAB) -sponsored "Comedy Night" featured the talents of stand-up comedians Christian Finnegan and Greg Giraldo — both rising stars on the national comedy scene. A native of Boston, Finnegan is best known for his television role on "The Chapelle Show" and as a VH1 commentator. He has also been featured on Comedy Central's Premium New York circuit. Giraldo, another up-and-coming star in the New York circuit, is celebrated as one of Comedy Central's greatest comedians of all time. He has performed with David Letterman and Conan O'Brien, and has been described as the next Jon Stewart — now that is saying a lot.

Finnegan opened his act with his characteristic offbeat freshness and some unabashed womanizing — informing the women in the audience that he would be sleeping with one of them after the show. After sharing the trauma of farting while toning his glutes on the stairmaster, he proposed that we chuck ambiguous names of nightclubs, like "Vision" or "Flow" in exchange for more fitting ones, like "Stool"(referring to the stool on stage) and "Hepatitis." Then when we go to a nightclub, he announced, we can say, "Yeah, Stool was the shit!" This was met with silence from the audience. Despite these gaffs, his routine was refreshing and mostly self-mocking.

Although undeniably hilarious, Giraldo made no effort to conceal some serious substance-abuse issues and marital problems. He started his routine on a personal note, asking audience members if they knew how it felt to "wake up puking in a urinal after a three-day coke binge." Nolan Sandygren '06, who has been following Giraldo's career for a while, was disappointed that the second half of the routine was mostly recycled material from his feature on Comedy Central. "I think it's understandable to reuse a few jokes here and there, but it went on for about half an hour and he even apologized for it when he first launched into his old routine," Sandygren said. He added, "It was kind of awkward every time he threw in a joke about his failing marriage or his drinking problems."

Samuel Morrill

Greg Giraldo got big laughs on the stage of Wright Theater where he was featured in MCAB's comedy event.

Awkward moments aside, Giraldo's routine brought up some great points about American politics and lifestyle, including obesity, ignorance of political issues (evident from his 8-year-old son asking him why the bad men in the Middle East hate us so much) and gay and lesbian rights. Putting these serious issues into a humorous context seemed to be Giraldo's way to get more people to think about them and to break down the communication barriers put up by America's extreme political correctness.

Judging from the sold-out house and glowing student reviews, the show was a huge hit. It provided slightly more "mainstream" entertainment than one usually finds on a Friday night at Middlebury, which some students found refreshing. Jason Bloch '07 said of the show, "I had a great time while I was there. Their material was extremely appropriate to college audiences, but to pretty much no one else. From prescription drugs to other kinds of drugs, they covered all the bases."

MCAB organizer Julia Cuthbertson '05.5 has been working with the Special Events Committee to bring the comedians to Middlebury since before winter break. Looking at dozens of options, she finally chose Finnegan and Giraldo for their name-recognition value and for their "original material and insightful commentary on social and political issues."

"I was thrilled with their performances and even happier with how the crowd responded," Cuthbertson said. "The audience was extremely enthusiastic and responsive throughout the entire show and I have only heard positive comments about their performances since Friday. It is clear from this show that bigger-name comedy is popular on our campus and MCAB is definitely going to keep this in mind as we look ahead to planning events in the future."

WINNERS & LOSERS

What's hot and what's not on campus and in pop culture? *The Campus* gives its weekly report.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCES	MCCULLOUGH DANCES
The magic of K-Ci and JoJo always makes for a romantic evening	People would benefit from bringing back the "hand-check"
MOBY DICK	ANYTHING ELSE BY HERMAN
Let the adolescent jokes flow freely	Examples being...?
THE LAMP SHOP 424 Pine Street Burlington	T.J. MAXX
I bet they have good lamps	No good lamps

PANTHER TOP 10

What music makes the Middlebury Charts? Here are the weekly top Napster downloads on campus.

1. **Kelly Clarkson — Since U Been Gone**
2. **50 Cent — Candy Shop**
3. **Ray Charles — Here We Go Again**
4. **Ray Charles — You Don't Know Me**
5. **Ray Charles — Hey Girl**
6. **Ray Charles — Somewhere Over the Rainbow**
7. **Green Day — Boulevard of Broken Dreams**
8. **Ray Charles — Do I Ever Cross Your Mind**
9. **Modest Mouse — Float On**
10. **The Killers — Somebody Told Me**

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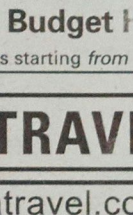

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20
MODERNIZING THE VIOLIN
ELIAS TRANSFORMS CLASSICAL MUSIC FOR NEW AUDIENCES

South Asia Club sponsors Tufts 'Bhangra' dancers for worthy cause

By Lauren Smith
ARTS EDITOR

Middlebury College's South Asia Club (SAC) filled the McCullough Social Space with the lively sounds of Bhangra Friday night as a dance and music troupe from Tufts University, performed to an animated audience. The performance, co-sponsored by SAC, the Office of Institutional Diversity and the College's Dance program, was free, but donations to the Tsunami Relief Fund were accepted at the door. A Bhangra workshop took place on Saturday in the Center for the Arts (CFA), allowing interested students to learn the traditional dance.

Vani Sathisan '07, vice president of SAC, organized the concert along with Sumeet Srivastava '05 and Afifa Faisal '07, SAC president. According to Sathisan, the performers were brought to the College "to raise awareness of a different culture, to cherish the idea of being international and, above all, to celebrate diversity on campus." Sathisan added, "People have to learn more about other cultures and traditions if they want to lead creative and fulfilling lives and to function with efficacy in societies. This was an excellent opportunity for many people who are not from the South Asian region to learn about just one small aspect of the culture."

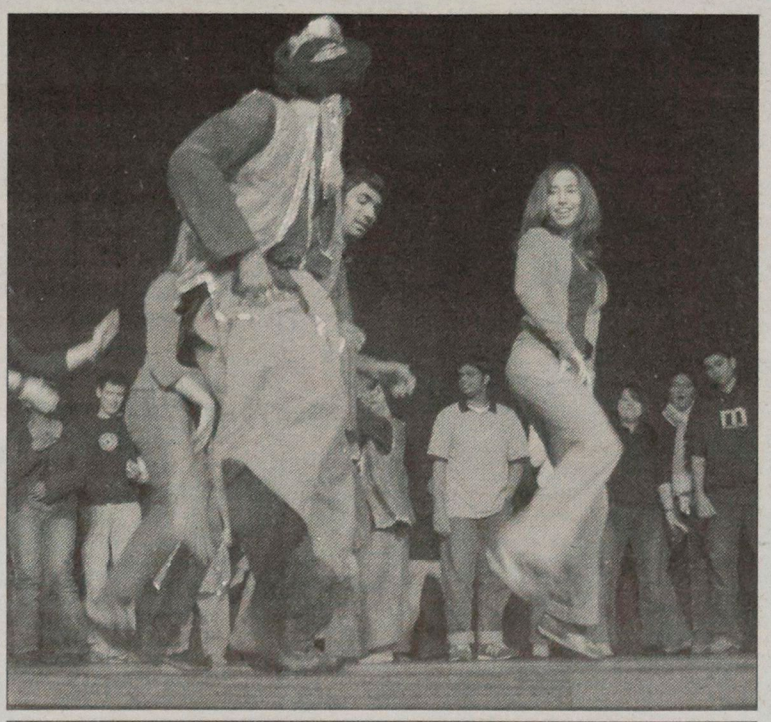
Bhangra is a form of folk music and dance that originated in Punjab, a region of northwestern India and eastern Pakistan. Traditionally, the songs were made-up verses called boliyaans which covered a variety of topics, from love to drinking. People traditionally performed Bhangra when celebrating the harvest, though it is now performed throughout the world at occasions such as weddings, receptions or parties. Performances of the dance include the singing of Punjabi boliyaan lyrics while playing the dhol drum, the most important instrument in the dance; the tumbi, a one-stringed instrument; and the sarangi, a violin-like instrument.

The 12 students who performed have earned a reputation as some of the top Bhangra dancers at a college or university in the United States. The group was founded five years ago and has since placed in the top five of two national Bhangra competitions. The performers were a mix of students directly from South Asia, students of South Asian descent and several Americans. The mix of nationalities within the group illustrated the "international" quality of the dance, something that was also illustrated by the fusion of modern club mixes and traditional Bhangra music throughout the performance.

Bhangra, which is believed to have originated in the 1400s, has recently hit the mainstream dance world. It has become a popular style of music and dance for native and non-native performers. Universities and other organizations have begun in the last several years to sponsor annual Bhangra dance competitions in many cities across the United States, Canada and England.

One notable aspect of the performance on Saturday was a collection at the door of donations that will go to the Tsunami Relief Fund. While the fundraising aspect was not originally planned, it was quickly added to the program after the tsunami occurred in South Asia.

"The tsunami affected the South Asian region very badly," Sathisan said. "It devastated some countries' economies and wrecked peoples' lives. We had initially planned on organizing this concert to highlight an important dance of South Asia, though after the tsunami the South Asia Club decided to do our bit in helping the victims of the disaster. Thus, it became a charity event."



Ari Joseph/Nirvana Bhatia

TOP: Tufts' Bhanghra dancers show aspiring Middlebury Bhangra dancers a thing or two. BOTTOM: Dancers in colorful dress move to the beat of the dhol drum and the tumbi instrument.

Bringing back Beethoven

Zilai Gan

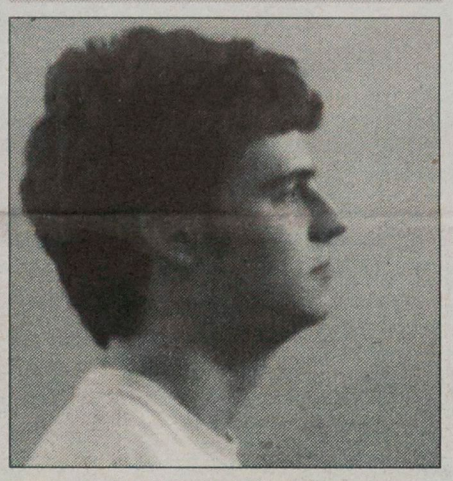
Playing before a packed house, pianist Paul Lewis performed four of Beethoven's famed piano sonatas at the Center for the Arts Friday, Feb. 18. Lewis' interpretation of the sonatas was filled with emotion, his face lighting up as he played particularly delicate passages and his whole body rocking with the passionate runs. Lewis obviously enjoyed himself though, making funny faces at the audience when they started clapping before a final resolution. Audience members, so moved by the performance, jumped to their feet to applaud Lewis after the final sonata ended.

Spotlight On ... D8 Duo

Middlebury College's many talented artists deserve a chance to shine. So every week, we will profile various artists on campus — musicians, actors, painters, writers, interior decorators and the like.

This week, we talk with two members of the acapella group, Dissipated 8, about their musical aspirations and the trials of being roommates.

Name: Jason Montgomery Grout '07
Hometown: Cambridge, Mass.
Major: Economics and Psychology
Favorite Animal: Squirrel
Favorite Dining Hall: Atwater



Name: Joel Michael Wolfram '07
Hometown: St. Cloud, Minn.
Major: Philosophy
Favorite Animal: Great Blue Heron
Favorite Dining Hall: Atwater

The Middlebury Campus: How long have you been singing?

Jason Grout: I've been singing since I was really little — throughout childhood and high school. I took voice lessons in high school.

Joel Wolfram: I never really sang formally until senior year of high school when I joined the choir. Other than that just D8, I guess.

The Campus: Where did you get your start?

Grout: Since I was 10-years-old, I've been playing the violin and piano. My parents were music majors, so they've influenced me in that way.

Wolfram: Yeah, my dad was a music major, so music's always been really important. I started on violin, then dabbled in other instruments.

The Campus: What are your musical aspirations?

Grout: When I was younger, I wanted to be famous. But now, I don't know I'll do much music after college except for singing in the car.

Wolfram: I wanna be the "American Idol" champ. No, actually I don't really want to do anything career-wise, but obviously if the opportunity arose.

The Campus: What is in your CD player right now?

Grout: Spoon, which is a band I discovered two weeks ago. Franz Ferdinand. And, Robert Randolph is the man.

Wolfram: I've been listening to a lot of Radiohead stuff — "Kid A," "Amnesiac."

The Campus: What about musical inspirations or favorite bands?

Wolfram: Beatles — probably the best rock band of all time. The early part of my musical career I was around a lot of classical stuff, so I have a lot of respect for that. In terms of singing, I think Bono takes the cake.

Grout: I also have a lot of respect for the Beatles, and Zeppelin. Coldplay is my favorite contemporary band.

The Campus: Do you sing in the shower?

Grout: Yeah, I usually sing the last song I was listening to in my room.

Wolfram: Pretty much whatever's in my head, ranging from songs I really like to songs I really hate.

The Campus: What is your favorite aspect of being a part of something like D8?

Wolfram: Camaraderie! *(both laugh)* Actually, it is. We probably get to do a lot of things other people don't get to do in college, like traveling.

Grout: Yeah, friendship, and having a social group to hang out with, and we go on at least a dozen trips a year — Cleveland for Feb break, Bermuda and lots of prep schools around New England.

The Campus: What was your audition like and what did you have to sing?

Wolfram: Pretty painless. I sang "Running to Stand Still" by U2.

Grout: I sang "Green Eyes" by Coldplay, appropriately enough.

The Campus: Do you have a nickname in D8, and if so, why?

Wolfram: *(chuckles)* Do we? Yeah, mine's Lasko, like the fan company.

Grout: Mine are versions of my middle and last name, like Gummer, Grouty Pants (G.P.) and Grout Attack, on a Saturday night.

The Campus: Any embarrassing moments during a D8 performance?

Wolfram: Having to sing the song "Shaboom," that's spelled S-H-A-B-O-O-M, to old ladies.

Grout: I guess I have some high falsetto parts that are kind of "crackle-ly" sometimes.

Wolfram: Yeah, I've cracked a few times on "In My Place." Gotta take it in stride.

The Campus: How did you become roommates?

Grout: We lived next to each other last year.

Wolfram: In the dungeon in Allen.

The Campus: What is something your roommate does that annoys you?

Wolfram: He plays Word Racer online non-stop.

Grout: Sometimes after he eats cereal he leaves the bowl with milk in it around for a long time.

Wolfram: *(Laughs)* Should I talk about all the things you leave around the room? Like heaps of clothes ...

Grout: Maybe we shouldn't talk about this for *The Campus*.

Wolfram: Yeah, good call.

— By Lauren Smith and Jodie Zhang

'Middlesex' explores gender

By Virginia Lawton Harper
Staff Writer

"I was born twice: first, as a baby girl, on a remarkably smogless Detroit day in January of 1960; and then again, as a teenage boy, in an emergency room near Petoskey, Michigan, in August of 1974."

It is with these confusingly contradictory words that Jeffrey Eugenides begins his second novel, "Middlesex," an epic that follows three generations of a Greek family from a small Turkish town to their establishment in Detroit's Greek community. In the midst of a century of gossip-worthy history, Cal, our narrator stands alone, a 41-year-old man in the Foreign Service office in Germany. Only he is qualified to tell the story for one very apparent reason — born physically a girl, and hormonally a boy, his life story is the climax to a tale about his family's history. Beginning with Cal's grandparents in the "old country," the story follows the immigrants' struggle in their new country and their children's rise in stature thanks to a lucrative chain of cheap hot dog stands in Detroit — a ready symbol of realized opportunity for economic and social renewal in the United States.

Eugenides uses "Middlesex" to question gender roles in a traditional family structure and to emphasize the fluidity of gender. Cal, then, is the perfect narrator because he has lived as several different versions of his self — a young girl clad in frilly dresses, an adolescent woman questioning her sexuality and her attraction to her female friends, a runaway boy who tries to escape America's strict gender definitions and a single man, working in Europe as he hides from reality. Yet despite Cal's male hormonal makeup, his masculine physique and his desire to be a heterosexual man, one obstacle remains — he lacks male reproductive organs, including a penis. The manuscript that Cal writes, the words of "Middlesex," is for him a way to come to terms with his family, his past and his sexuality. In the text, he confronts a life that he has escaped for years by continuously running from it. In writing, he comes to understand himself, molding his history in order to form a phallus that for the first time in his life gives him a clear sense of his own gender, one that he establishes as neither masculine nor feminine.

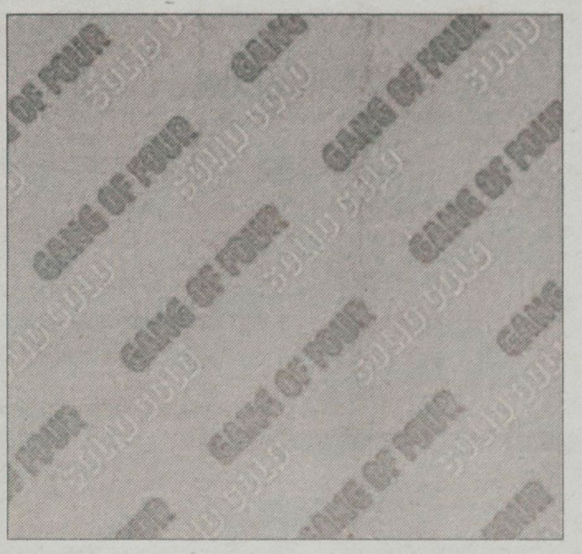
Cal's story coherently skips between a chronological narrative, the memoirs of a family displaced by war and his own present life in Berlin. The most striking feature of "Middlesex" is the atmosphere that the family creates — calm, quiet and homey — in the midst of continual upheaval. Eugenides masterfully weaves an innate peace into the story of the Stephanides' family even in the midst of incest, dark secrets, mafia affiliations, race riots, gory murders and endless sex. While these stresses at times create unrest and anxiety for the novel's characters, they never wreak havoc on the family as a whole, a testament to the strength and solidarity that unconditional love brings to relationships.

Eugenides successfully fuses the epic tone of Homer with a suggestion of mysticism, reminiscent of the work of Gabriel García Marquez. Cal's grandmother, Desdemona, works into the narrative as his connection to the family's vague and numinous past. Arriving at Ellis Island in 1922, Desdemona finds herself required by inspectors to cut her long braids of hair into a stylish bob in order to facilitate integration into American culture. Horrified, she pledges never to cut it again, a promise that she keeps. As "Middlesex" unwinds, so too does Desdemona's hair, and as she grows older and more senile, it takes on a life of its own that mystically speaks to Cal of the family's past — a long yarn that he eventually finds he must unwind to discover himself.

"Middlesex" was published in 2002 by Picador and received the Pulitzer Prize.

BLOWIN' INDIE WIND

BY RICHARD LAWLESS



THE ARTIST | GANG OF FOUR
THE ALBUM | SOLID GOLD
RELEASE DATE | 1981

"SOLID GOLD" WILL BE FEATURED ON WRMC'S "ALBUM OF THE WEEK" THIS SUNDAY AT 9 P.M.

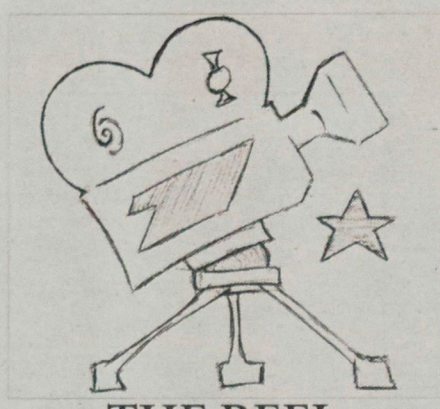
Nowadays the NYC dance-punk scene is everywhere. The movement's central figure, James Murphy, released his group LCD Soundsystem's eponymous debut album this January. He now can comfortably charge $6,000 a show and be a rock star. But how did Murphy get to be king of hipper-than-thou NYC-ness? In 2002, James Murphy and music partner Tim Goldsworthy — who are together known as the DFA — produced the Rapture's career-making hit single "House of Jealous Lovers," promoting the band and the producers to the forefront of the burgeoning dance-punk scene. While generations of young, impressionable hipsters naturally thought that "House of Jealous Lovers" was mind-blowingly original, it's actually highly derivative of a great band that is painfully overlooked. This band is Gang of Four.

If you want to talk about who *really* started the dance-punk scene, you're going to have to come back to 1979 with me. Gang of Four formed in Leeds, England in the late '70s, quickly developing an edgy, funky sound that retained the energy and abrasiveness of punk, but was also in tune with the infectious dance-beats of the disco movement and the rhythmic, minimalist guitars of the post-punk movement. I know that using the term "post-punk" is about as vague as using the term "indie rock," and to be fair, way too many groups that sounded nothing alike were lumped under the moniker "post-punk," but the term does fit Gang of Four well. While many critics focus on Gang of Four's first album, "Entertainment!" I'd like to engage their second album, "Solid Gold," which is the one that sounds remarkably like the Rapture.

Opening with "Paralysed" (they're British), the first sound we hear is that of a repeated snare rim tap. The twangy, muted guitar — one of the band's elements that the Rapture copies — comes in at a polyrhythm to the fleshed-out drumbeat, and soon the bass comes in with a completely different rhythm. While this might sound cacophonous, the band molds all three into an enticing groove. Lead singer Jon King begins narrating in his native British accent, and the song is periodically thrown into silence by dramatic stops and starts. If there was one song that the DFA and the Rapture fashioned "House of Jealous Lovers" after, it would be the album's second track, "What We All Want." And they had good reason to — this song is brilliant, with a more upbeat drum tempo than "Paralysed," and a infectiously rhythmic riff from Andy Gill's taut guitar.

One of Gang of Four's key components was the highly political nature of their lyrics, which heavily criticized economically-obsessed society. While incendiary on their debut, Gang of Four's fiery lyrics reach their biting peak on "Solid Gold," as evidenced from such song titles as "Outside the Trains Don't Run on Time," "He'd Send in the Army" and "Why Theory?" Witness the funky "Cheeseburger," in which King declares "I move from one place to the next / I hope they keep down the price of gas / I shoot the best, are you taking dollars? / See how I will run the table." Combining a tense, edgy beat with atonal guitar twangs and a fluid, catchy bass line, it is perhaps the most abrasive and simultaneously exciting track on the album.

Sadly, aside from a couple decent singles, this was Gang of Four's last shining moment before they dissolved into the mire of the 1980s. Their legacy limps along, thanks to preachy elitist critics who try to shove the band down people's throats, and dance-punk producers like the DFA who knowingly rip-off their sound. Unfortunately, speaking of Gang of Four's greatness is a moot point right now, as it's a little difficult to get your hands on either of Gang of Four's first two albums, which are available only as pricey imports. So unless you're into shelling out $25.00 for a 40-minute disc, you'll have to hold out. But if "Solid Gold" ever does make it back into American stores without an Import tag on it, I suggest picking it up if you like your post-punk with a bit of spice.



THE REEL CRITIC

BY STEPHANIE DOSCH

Ah, the Academy Awards — an event where beautiful dresses, bad speeches and Hollywood politics come together for one unforgettable night. I will never forget Björk's stint as an egg-laying swan, Whoopie Goldberg's crass jokes about the color of her wind or the year "Titanic" won Best Picture and Helen Hunt won Best Actress. With Chris Rock hosting this year, the Oscars promise to be just as unforgettable as we have come to expect.

But the real show-stealers, the things people talk about for weeks leading up to the show, are the awards themselves. Everyone has their own opinion of who should win and why, and part of the fun of watching the ceremony is seeing if your predictions are correct. So without further ado, here are my own picks for Oscars in 2005.

Best Picture: "The Aviator"

If there's one thing I've learned from the past several years of Oscar-watching, it's that the best movies don't always win. "Sideways" and "Million Dollar Baby" may have been the best films of the year, but "The Aviator" has the luxe Hollywood showiness that brings home the statuettes. Plus it stars Leonardo DiCaprio, which seemed to work well for "Titanic."

Best Director: Clint Eastwood

Even if "The Aviator" wins Best Picture, a large sector of the Academy will recognize the directing powerhouse Clint Eastwood has become, as demonstrated by "Million Dollar Baby." Then again, Martin Scorsese could score some pity points for "The Aviator" since he has had five Best Director nominations and no wins.

Best Actor: Jamie Foxx

I think the world will be shocked if he doesn't win this award. It was hard to remember that we weren't actually watching Ray Charles on the screen — a truly phenomenal, once-in-a-lifetime performance.

Best Actress: Hilary Swank

A tougher category than the Best Actors', but after making her mark on Hollywood by winning Best Actress in 2000 for "Boys Don't Cry," and winning the Golden Globe for "Million Dollar Baby," Swank looks like a shoo-in. (Wow, two once-in-a-lifetime roles for her.) On the other hand, critics think Annette Bening's performance in "Being Julia" could give Swank a run for her money.

Best Supporting Actor/Actress: Thomas Haden Church/Cate Blanchett

Haden Church was the surprise comic foil in "Sideways," whereas Morgan Freeman has previously played many roles similar to his part in "Million Dollar Baby." Several critics like Virginia Madsen for Best Supporting Actress, but I think Cate Blanchett's heavy-handed portrayal of Katherine Hepburn will stand out to Academy members.

Best Original/Adapted Screenplay: Charlie Kaufman (The Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind)/Alexander Payne and Jim Taylor (Sideways)

It's time for Charlie Kaufman to win an Oscar, and I think the Academy will see that. Likewise, it will want to honor "Sideways" with one of the major awards, if not Best Picture or Best Director.

The 77th Annual Academy Awards air on Sunday at 8:30 p.m. on ABC.

Elias redefines classical violin

By Abigail Mitchell
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Feb. 19, violinist Gerald Elias performed along with pianist and Assistant in Music Cynthia Huard, in a program entitled "Music of the 21st Century" for a small crowd in the Center for the Arts (CFA). Throughout the night, the musicians performed works by Elias, Hamlin, Crumb, Paganini and Rosenzweig. It was a privilege for Middlebury College to host renowned violinist, teacher and composer Elias who has been Associate Concertmaster of the Utah Symphony since 1988, first violinist of the Abramyam String Quartet and Adjunct Professor of Music at the University of Utah. Teaching piano at Middlebury College, Cynthia Huard has appeared in recitals as a pianist and harpsichordist throughout the United States and Europe.

Elias began the performance with Paganini's "Caprice #24," perhaps the most famous solo violin piece and a foundation for works of composers of the last two hundred years. Elias then opted for something more "flipped out" in the form of a piece by Associate Professor of Music Peter Hamlin called "Paganini in a Blender." Hamlin composed the piece with the help of a computer program he wrote called "Blender," which uses various kinds of processes to alter music.

Next came David Crumb's "September Elegy," a sad and moving piece composed to commemorate the victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks. Crumb wrote of the piece, "I find myself increasingly preoccupied with the exploration of an intuitive 'sound world,' and less interested in a purely cerebral approach that may ignore or obscure the emotional impulses that, in my view, are the genesis of successful art." The final drawn-out note sent shivers down the audience members' spines, a fitting reminder of the tragedy. Elias also dedicated that performance to everyone who has died in the War on Terror, and his first violin teacher who passed away just prior to the concert.

Bernerd Geoxavier

In his program of contemporary pieces, Elias played an unconventional interpretation of Paganini's "Caprice #24," — "Paganini in a Blender," written by Middlebury's Peter Hamlin.

After a brief intermission abuzz with conversation and praise, Elias went on to play "Partita Intrecciata," a violin piece co-commissioned in 1999 by Elias and Bodil Rørbech. Complementing the violin was an electronic component prepared at the University of Utah by a K2000 synthesizer and two digital programs. To wrap up the evening, Elias played one of his own pieces entitled "Concerto Grosso in B-flat." The piece was composed in the spirit and form of the Italian Baroque Concerto Grosso, but it also draws upon the Western musical tradition. The shape it took was partially influenced by Elias's two children, Jake Elias and Kate Elias '06.

When asked his reaction to the concert, Tristan Axelrod '08 said, "I liked the concert. Elias, unlike some other virtuosos, does not sacrifice good taste in favor of virtuosic talent exposition. His playing on 'September Elegy' was soulful, and his concerto was especially enjoyable, with very straightforward melody and harmony. I also liked Profesor Hamlin's blended Paganini piece, which was experimental yet still interesting, and retained the flavor and virtuosity of the caprice."

Kevin Buckland '05.5 also enjoyed the concert. He said, "It was eye-opening to hear modern classical music. The pieces Elias chose really showcased the variety of sounds that can be produced by a violin. Its funny how we tend to think of classical music as a dead genre, but genres don't die, they merely are transformed."

Watch This Space

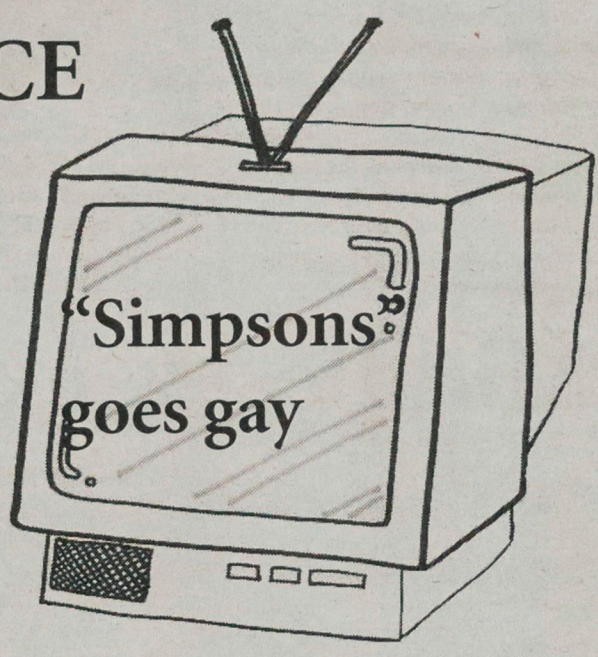
— BY SHEILA SELES

Last Sunday night homosexuality held the spotlight on television. Apparently, sex does sell, and same-sex sex sells even better. The most hyped coming out occurred on the smartest show on television —"The Simpsons."

The episode unfolds in typical "Simpsons" fashion. The writers take us from point A to point Z so quickly and seamlessly that we have no idea how we got to the end of the episode from the beginning. At the start of this episode, Bart and his best friend Milhouse torment a TV travel show host, who eventually gives Springfield a severe tongue-lashing and all but kills the town's tourism industry. To revive tourism the town decides to legalize gay marriage because they reason that gay people have a lot of money. This idea bothers Homer for about half a second until he realizes that he can make big money marrying same-sex couples. He gets certified as a minister on the Internet and makes a gay marriage business in his garage.

The Fox network, which airs "The Simpsons," has been advertising their "gay episode" for what seems like months now. They promised that one "Simpsons" regular would come out of the closet and television critics and fans immediately began to place bets on which character it would be. Of course in its brilliant self-referential fashion, Sunday's episode addressed most of the speculations about Springfield's newest gay resident. Martin Prince, Bart's ridiculously urbane 8-year-old classmate, was one of the favorites for gay speculations. During the episode, Martin answers curious fans when he's accused of being gay on the playground, "I'm not anything yet!" Homer then tries to drum up some gay marriage business from his inseparable buddies Lenny and Carl — another couple that garnered a lot of gay speculation. Marge then urges Homer to "give them time." These are the kind of in-jokes that endear "The Simpsons" to loyal fans and TV junkies alike.

So, the million-dollar question — who came out of the closet? As it turns out many speculators were right. Marge's sister Patty is a lesbian. This wasn't really much of a surprise to "Simpsons" aficionados. While her twin sister Selma has been married three times in the 16-season course of the show, Patty has remained single and blatantly uninterested in any man who is not Macgyver. When Patty comes out to Marge, Marge acts like she has dropped a huge bomb. At this moment, Homer speaks for "Simpsons" fans everywhere when he quips, "Hey, Marge. Here's another bomb — I like beer."



Predictability aside, last Sunday's "Simpsons" provides the insightful and messy social commentary that has kept the show on the air for 16 seasons. While most mainstream real-life debate about gay marriage has focused on moral questions, on "The Simpsons" no one in Springfield, except for the idealistic Lisa, seems to have a legitimate moral position on the issue. The business owners in town — notably Apu decked out in short shorts — love the idea of gay marriage for the revenue it brings in, not because of any human rights concerns. Homer supports gay marriage for similar monetary reasons.

The show uses Homer's garage-business to lampoon conservative arguments that gay marriage will dissolve marriage to the point where anything can marry anything. (Homer does allow people to marry anything and even quotes a "diaper fee for chimp brides.") Of course, Homer is the extreme, but he points to an issue of social importance — the institution of marriage (gay or straight) has become a commodity. The recent shotgun Vegas weddings and subsequent annulments of Nicky Hilton and Britney Spears prove that any man and woman who can afford the fee can get hitched. Where's the sanctity in that?

The show does seem to come down on the side of tolerance even if it leaves the larger moral questions untouched. Marge eventually comes to terms with Patty's sexual orientation saying, "Just because you're a lesbian doesn't make you less of a bian (being)."

The tough questions raised by this rather gimmicky episode prove that "The Simpsons" hasn't lost its edge. I hope that as long as American culture has problems, "The Simpsons" will be there to make us laugh at ourselves. Here's to 16 more seasons.

Women fall to Elmira in OT thriller

By Tom McCann
Sports Editor

Julia Randall

Shannon Sylvester '07 looks to pass to an open Panther during recent action. Middlebury heads into the postseason as the #2 seed in the NESCAC tournament after dropping an overtime nail-biter to Elmira.

After a tough loss to Bowdoin two weeks ago, it was important for the women's hockey team to bounce back with a two-game road trip to Williams. The women were not there to face the Ephs but instead took the ice against Utica College on February 19th, before a showdown against Elmira College. The Soaring Eagles and Panthers were ranked first and second in the nation, respectively, before the games.

The Utica Pioneers took the lead in the Saturday dual, with a goal just after the 10 minute mark of the first period. The goal seemed to have the effect of stirring the women into action as it took just 90 seconds for the Panthers to strike back. Karen Levin '08 took full advantage of a powerplay as she found the back of the net for her fourth career goal. This would be the last of the goal scoring in the first period as the buzzer sounded with the teams knotted at one.

Whatever Coach Bill Mandigo said at half-time must have been heeded by the women as they came out firing in an explosive second period. Just 45 seconds in, Lorna Gifis '05 found the net, taking an assist from sophomore Emily McNamara. Six minutes later, with the game delicately poised at 2-1, Lindsay Jones '05 found Tania Kerry '08 to make it 3-1, with the defensewoman netting, giving Middlebury a crucial two-goal cushion. Utica was able to pull within a goal on a powerplay with 15:30 on the clock in the second period, but just as they did in the first period, allowed a goal almost immediately after scoring themselves. Just 14 seconds after making it a one-goal game, Allison Graddock '07 solved goaltender Sarah Detwiler, once again, pushing the advantage back out to two goals. Gifis then added her second of the game, with two minutes remaining in the second period on another powerplay, giving the Panthers a big 5-2 lead heading back to the locker-room.

With four goals on just 14 shots in the second period, Middlebury held the advantage moving into the final period, but Utica came back at the Panthers once more. A 6-on-4 powerplay for the Pioneers led to a goal at the 2:58 mark, but could not solve Kate Kogut '06 in the Middlebury net after that. With 1:38 remaining on the clock, and two goals adrift, Utica pulled their goaltender in a desperate attempt to pull back another goal. Levin netted her second goal of the game against the empty net with 61 seconds on the clock to complete the scoring at 6-3.

Captain Jackie Cohen '05 commented, "Overall, we could have played better. I think we played down to their level rather than have them play up to ours." However, she also noted, "Good teams find a way to win no matter what, even if it's a sloppy game. We found a way to put the puck in the net." Next up though was a head-to-head with Elmira, matching the two top-ranked teams against each other.

The Soaring Eagles got off to the best possible start with a goal inside the first five minutes, but could not hold the lead as the first period went on. Emily Quizon '06 latched onto the puck from Kenny and found the back of the net. The score remained tied at 1-1 as the players went in for the break.

The second period followed the same pattern as the first, with Elmira taking the lead through an early goal, this time 2:35 into the period. However, once again they could not establish the two-goal cushion and Middlebury pegged back Elmira for a second time. On this occasion it was Gifis with her third goal of the weekend who solved goaltender Edith Racine, with the assist going to Quizon at the 15:19 mark. A tense third period saw just 16 shots shared between the two teams with neither one able to find the crucial third goal.

In a game between two of the best teams in the nation it was fitting that the game should need an extra stanza in decide to find a winner. The goal came 3:05 into the overtime period, the third time Middlebury had conceded a goal inside the first five minutes of a period in the game. Cohen described the goal as "a fluke as the girl was behind the net to the left and tried to pass it in infront. It hit the goalie and went in — she didn't even know it hit her." Kogut ended the game with 26 saves for the Panthers, but after a somewhat fortunate deflection the Soaring Eagles emerged with the win.

Despite the defeat, Gifis said, "We played extremely well. A lot of people thought we dominated so we have a lot of confidence going into next weekend."

Despite having dropped two big games in recent weeks, the morale on the team is still high. Cohen said, "We're feeling pretty good and I think the losses will help us. I think we went into the season after winning nationals thinking we would beat anyone, but in reality we have to work that much harder to stay on top." She went on to say, "It's almost harder being the number one team — it's like you have a target on your back."

The results of the weekend leave the Panthers with a 20-3-1 record heading into the off-season. As second seeds for the NESCAC Championships, the Panthers are due to face Trinity on Feb. 26 at 1 p.m. The Panthers will be confident of overcoming the Continentals after handing them a 7-1 defeat on the road, followed by an 8-1 rout at Kenyon a few weeks ago. However, Gifis urged caution, saying, "It's important we don't overlook them or they could upset us. We'll need to be ready to play." Should the Panthers overcome Hamilton, a trip to Bowdoin for the semi-final and final of the NESCAC Championships and a chance to avenge the recent 5-2 defeat awaits.

One and done for women's hoops

By Ryan Reese
Sports Editor

This past weekend, the Middlebury women's basketball team tipped off against the Ephs of Williams in quarterfinal action of the NESCAC tournament. Unfortunately, the gym at Williams was the end of the road for the Panthers as they fell by a score of 81-44. Middlebury's record for this year's campaign wound up being a respectable 11-14.

The Panthers never really gained solid momentum during the contest and failed to find a rhythm that had been lacking throughout the season. The Ephs took advantage of a disjointed Panther attack by racing out to a 14-2 lead.

The Panthers came to play — however, a more powerful Williams squad had different postseason ambitions. The Ephs had taken the two previous regular season meetings before last Saturday's matchup. In their first meeting on Dec. 3, the Panthers fell by a score of 79-63 and on Jan. 29 the Ephs won the rematch by a score of 81-65.

In this game, Williams took control from the opening tip-off. By halftime, Middlebury found themselves staring up at a 16-point deficit and the second half would showcase more Willaims domination.

The final half of the Panthers' season kicked off with a 20-4 Williams run and showed little hope for a frustrated Panther squad. The Ephs continued to push the pace the entire game and comfortably moved on to the semifinal against Bowdoin.

Williams held a substantial advantage of the boards while accumulating a total of 52 rebounds on the afternoon. Middlebury played strong and collected 35 of their own. Maryanne Verzosa '06 led the Panther attack with nine points as Alanna Young '08 and Kate Fisher '08 added eight and seven respectively.

Saturday afternoon's loss signified the last time that senior Elyse Carlson would lace up the sneakers and put on the Middlebury uniform. The guard from Braintree, Massachusetts led the Panthers throughout the season both on and off the court. She racked up the most playing time during the year's 25 games. She made good use of her time on the floor as she led the Panther offense by scoring more points than any other member of the squad. By averaging 13.2 points a contest, the senior led the charge this year and over the course of her Middlebury career.

A solid core of seniors will take over the reins during the '05-'06 campaign and a strong contribution from this year's first-years will be expected. The future looks bright for the women's basketball team and they will look to improve upon this season's result in next year's fixtures.

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Column as I see 'em

BY JEFF PATTERSON

Although the 54th NBA All-Star game was played in Denver's Pepsi Center, the Slam Dunk contest, arguably one of the most exciting events during the Weekend, was sponsored by Sprite, a division of Coca-Cola. During every commercial break the same ad would run, where Thirst, a cartoon character, returned a beat-up car to two guys, who thought it had been stolen. The outside of the car remained dirty, but the inside was transformed to contain dining hall style soda dispensers and a full fridge. According to Thirst's receipts, the interior improvements cost $37,000. Hypothetically, with the substantial earnings the Phoenix Suns made from wins in the Shooting Stars competition, the Skills Challenge, the Three-Point Shootout and a second-place finish in the Slam Dunk contest, they could buy a new company car.

In the Shooting Stars competition, a WNBA player, an NBA player and a retired legend worked together, trying to make shots from different locations, including one from half court, in the shortest amount of time. Thunder Dan Majerle sunk the 47-foot shot immediately electrifying the crowd. Next up, Steve Nash showed why he is one of the most fundamental point guards in the league by winning the Skills Challenge. In the finals of the Three-Point Shootout, Quentin Richardson's first attempt was an air-ball, but he came back like a squash ball when the pressure was on. When he couldn't miss, he didn't miss. 'Q' made his last nine shots to go one ahead of the leader, Kyle Korver and when the defending champ, Voshon Lenard, failed to match Richardson's score, Phoenix had won the first three competitions and was looking for a sweep.

Amaré Stoudemire used Suns teammate Steve Nash to help him perform a dunk that easily could have received a higher score than the perfect 50 it got. Here, Nash received a bullet pass off backboard and in one motion, headed an alley-oop lob to Stoudemire. While in mid-air Stoudemire spun 180 degrees before he slammed the ball with his right hand. However, the judges were more impressed with Josh Smith, the 19-year-old rookie forward on the Hawks. Smith's most memorable dunk involved catching a pass from Kenyon Martin, who was sitting on a chair in the middle of the paint and flying over him so he could flush the ball with his left hand. K-Mart didn't flinch. But he didn't need to because Smith's right foot was more than five feet in the air.

Even with musical performances by Destiny's Child and LeAnn Rimes there were plenty of unsung heroes. Paul Pierce, Antawn Jamison and Zydrunas Ilgauskas were on the floor during a 17-0 run that put the East up by seven. Without this spurt, the West would have easily won its fourth All-Star game in a row.

Skiers rack up more bronze medals

Courtesy

Dave Coriell '06 rounds a gate while competing in last weekend's Williams Carnival. The Panthers look strong heading into the upcoming home carnival.

By Kellan Florio

Staff Writer

The Middlebury ski teams held off a strong showing by Williams at the Ephs' home carnival to notch their fifth consecutive third place this season. For the second week in a row, the University of Vermont (UVM) edged out Dartmouth for the victory with 686.5 points, besting the Big Green by five. Middlebury finished with 603 points, while Williams took fourth with 555.5.

A year after proving themselves to be the top giant slalom (GS) squad in the east, the Panther men had struggled to live up to that reputation so far in 2005, until this weekend. Junior Dave Coriell broke out of a minor slump to post his best GS result of the season in third place, leading three Panthers into the top 10 and all six into the top 20, good enough for a shared first place for the day with host Williams.

Coriell's combined time of 1:55.73 landed him four-hundredths of a second behind second place finisher Chris Frank of Williams, and just over a second behind a rejuvenated Benjamin Drummond of UNH.

"The night before the race we were watching video and I noticed that I had been rotating a little bit over the past couple weeks, so I made the adjustment when I was warming up and focused on that during the race," commented Coriell on his break through result.

"During the first run the snow storms were rolling in and out which made the visibility pretty bad so it was a real battle to get down. I skied a little conservative on the second run, but it was good enough to hold my place."

Also scoring for the men were co-captain John Rusten '05 in seventh and Joey Swensson '08 in eighth. Sophomore Andrew Everett posted the second fasted afternoon time, moving him into 13th, while Clayton Reed '08 and Derek Shields '05 rounded out the Panther finishers in 16th and 19th, respectively. "As a team, we'd been struggling in GS this year," noted Rusten. "So to win on a tough hill is pretty exciting."

The Middlebury women once again rode the tails of first-year Megan Hughes who picked up her third top five GS result of the season, finishing 1.4 seconds behind winner Jilyne McDonald of UVM in fourth. Krissie Poehling '08 hurdled eight places in the afternoon run to finish 11th, while Lindsay Brush '07 was close behind in 13th.

Hughes paced the women again in Saturday's slalom coming in fifth place, finishing just over three second behind Courtney Calise of Dartmouth who blew away the field by over two seconds en route to her first slalom victory of the season.

Lindsay Brush was solid in seventh place, while Poehling scored again for the Panthers in 13th. Tara Martin '07 and Kelly Brush '08 also posted respectable results as they finished in a tie for 16th.

It was a tale of two days for the alpine men as Saturday's slalom was a far cry from their first place effort a day earlier, finishing in sixth despite some excellent skiing from Rusten. Wearing bib number one, Rusten laid down a beautiful first run and watched his time hold up as the fastest of the morning leg.

"My first run was the best I've skied all year and probably the most mistake-free run I've ever had," acknowledged Rusten.

With only one of five teammates safely through the finish in the second run, Rusten delivered under the pressure and secured his second podium of the season, finishing in third place overall, a half-second behind Williams first-year Charles Christianson.

"A lot of people were leaning in on the second run because the snow was so slick," commented Rusten. "I made sure I didn't, which maybe cost me some time, but the course was so back and forth that I had to be really precise with each turn."

Making his first carnival appearance of the season, senior Derek Shields moved up seven places in the afternoon run after battling through a broken pole in the first run to finish in 15th place. First-year Clayton Reed was ninth after the first run, but hiked in the second run to finish in 19th as the Panthers' third scorer.

"That'll happen in slalom from time to time," said Alpine Head Coach Forest Carey of the men's aberrant result. "But we're confident about our chances at the Bowl next week. We're always great on our GS hill, especially the men, and anything can happen on the Ross [slalom hill]. The UVM women are tough, but we have a home hill advantage. We are definitely capable of putting the hurt on."

Generally I think the team is feeling some momentum coming into the Middlebury Carnival. We'll be skiing on our home course infront of our own fans which is always an advantage for our team.

— Coach Terry Aldrich

Over at Prospect Mountain, the Middlebury nordic teams turned in their best effort of the season, finishing third overall behind UVM and Dartmouth who continue to trade places atop the nordic classification.

Leading the Panther men in Friday's 10 km freestyle was junior Garrott Kuzzy who crossed the line in 26:58.6, good enough for fourth place and just six seconds out of second place. UVM's Lowell Bailey claimed the victory in 26:17.3 with a comfortable margin over teammate Ethan Foster.

"Friday's 10 km skate was cold and the trail was uneven and icy," commented Kuzzy on the adverse racing conditions. "I was happy to finish where I did, just seconds out of the top three."

Beau Baldock '07 continued his surge toward the top five with a season-best eighth place finish, while co-captain Jake Whitcomb '06 rounded out the scorers in 20th.

Evelyn Dong '07 was impressive once again for the Panther women, skating to a career-best sixth place finish, just one second out of the top five and one minute behind winner Elizabeth Harrington of Dartmouth in Friday's 5 km freestyle.

"It was the first time I haven't really been nervous before a race," admitted Dong. "I went out hard because I knew it was a pretty fast course and just tried to keep that up."

Nordic Head Coach Terry Aldrich noted, "With another strong finish at Middlebury, Evelyn could be packing her bags for her first NCAA Championship." Behind Dong was Jenny Jorvig '06 in 11th, Claire Anderson '06 in 14th, Taylor Leach '06 in 21st and Tyne Pike-Sprenger '05 in 28th.

On Saturday, Baldock, Kuzzy, and Matt Johnson '08 teamed up to take fourth in the sprint relay, finishing just over a minute behind UVM's team of Bailey, Ryan Foster and Ethan Foster who completed the course in 28 minutes flat. The team of Whitcomb, Jimmy Ades '08 and Bryce Roche '05 finished 9th, two and a half minutes out of first. On the women's side, co-captain Leach was the Panthers' fastest skier on the day, leading her relay team of Erin Pittenger '07 and Pike-Sprenger into fifth place, while Anderson, Jorvig and Dong were 13 seconds behind in sixth.

Dartmouth continued their dominance over the women's nordic events beating out UVM by 38 seconds for the win. "I was very pleased with the team's effort and results this past weekend, especially Friday," said Aldrich. "Generally I think the team is feeling some momentum coming into the Middlebury Carnival. We'll be skiing on our home courses in front of our own fans which is definitely an advantage for our team."

Both the alpine and nordic teams are hoping that Middlebury students partake in the festivities on Friday and Saturday at both the Snow Bowl and the Rikert Ski Touring Center as the ski team looks to defend its Eastern title.

Women's squash dominates over field on way to Cup win

By Zamir Ahmed
Sports Editor

The Middlebury women's squash team capped off a successful season last weekend by capturing the Walker Cup at Princeton University for the second straight year. The Walker Cup goes to the winner of the 'C' division of the Howe Cup, the most prestigious title in women's collegiate squash.

In their three team victories at the tournament the team dropped only six individual matches out of 27. The team was lead by Holly Haertel '05, Ashley Pullen '05, Kara Zarchin '06 and first-year Ellie Buechner, all of whom went 3-0 at the tournament.

This year, Yale University took the top prize for the second year in a row, finishing the year undefeated with a record of 14-0.

On Friday, the Panthers took on Wellesley College in the first round of the competition. Middlebury dropped only one match on its way to an easy win by a score of 8-1. The team then moved on to the semi-finals held on Feb. 19, where they faced Stanford University. The team posted a win in that match by a score of 8-1. The team's only loss against Stanford was suffered by number-one Hannah Baker '07, who lost to the Cardinals' first-year standout Brooksie Riley.

On Sunday, Middlebury met Vassar College in the finals of the tournament. In an exciting match-up the Panthers managed to escape a tough fight put up by the Brewers and prevailed by a score of 5-4. The Panthers got wins from Baker, number-two Haertel, number-seven Zarchin, number-eight Beuchner and number-nine Pullen.

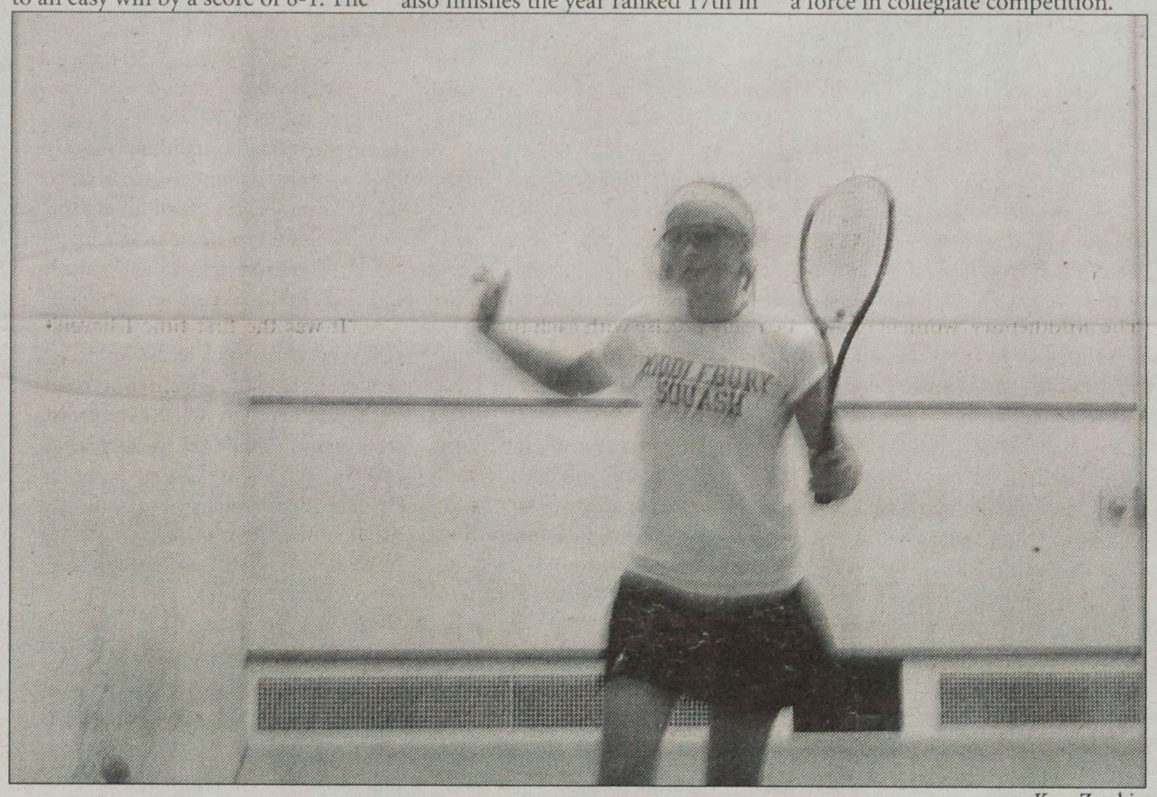
"The match could've gone either way," said Head Coach David Saward. "I think Hannah Baker did a great job of steadying herself after losing the first game and pulling us through."

The team's performance at the Walker Cup improved the Panthers' record to 8-5 on the season. The team also finishes the year ranked 17th in the nation. Although the team had a couple of disappointing losses at the beginning of the year, including 5-4 losses to Tufts University and St. Lawrence College, the Panthers can take pride in their end-of-the-year result.

"As a coach, you hope your team is playing its best at the end of the year and I think we did that," said Saward.

The team will now look to use their back-to-back wins at the Walker Cup to gain more respect in the region. The Panthers' biggest challenge is to get more teams to play at Middlebury in the coming seasons. The team played its first home game ever last season but did not host any games this year.

After dominating the field in the Walker Cup for the past two seasons, the Panthers hope to make the jump to the 'B' Division of the Howe Cup, the division the team played in until a few seasons ago. The team also hopes that new recruits in the coming years will help them become a force in collegiate competition.



Kara Zarchin

Hannah Baker '07 and teammates defeated three opponents with a combined score of 21-6 to win the Walker cup.

Track moving to a close

By Ana Christina Furney
Staff Writer

As the spring months approach, some sports teams on campus enter the final stages their season, while others are just beginning. For Middlebury's track team, the indoor season is coming to a climax. Competition began in early January for the runners, after competing in the Dartmouth College invitational. More recent competitions have included meets at Wesleyan, St. Lawrence, Dartmouth and Tufts. The most recent efforts of the track team occurred over the weekend at the New England Championships. While the men's team took 11th place, the women's team finished four back in 15th.

The indoor events over the weekend were comprised of 24 different organizations. While neither team broke into the top 10 overall, some individual performers did extremely well in a variety of different disciplines.

Matt Engler, a junior from San Diego, CA competed in the 55m hurdles and raced to a solid third place with a time of 7.88. Strong work didn't end there. Nick Digani '05 placed fifth in the 800m with a time of 1:56.53 while junior Kevin Bright placed sixth in the 400m with a time of 50.83. Sophomore Alex Wellman completed the pentathlon in sixth place with 2,971 points. The men's competition was culminated in the Distance Medley Relay consisting of four of Middlebury's finest athletes — Digani, Bright, Jonathon Erwin '05 and Jimmy Butcher '08. This grouping completed the competition in fourth position, with an overall time of 10:29.16.

On the women's side there remained a dominant display of athleticism. It was senior Allison Williams who shone in the 600m, racing to the bronze medal in a time of 1:39.98. Senior Sarah Berkowitz pole-vaulted to fifth place, with a final measure of 10'6", while Sarah Wilson '08 followed her in sixth place, with a height of 10'.

First-year athlete Lizz Huntley reflected on the meet by saying that the weekend "was successful for the team. I feel that while other teams are in full force, we only have half the team that competes indoors, and we still managed to hold our own amongst other colleges with full rosters."

As the indoor track season comes to an end, the outdoor track season begins its training for the spring. We will be seeing many familiar faces and names in the upcoming weeks, as Middlebury athletes transition between these two sister-sports.

Indoor Track is coming to an end with Middlebury's men and women competing in another portion of the Open New England's on February 25. Huntley recommends paying attention to the women's team, for they will be extremely competitive in the 55m, the 55m hurdles and the 600m. Some of the Panther athletes who will be traveling to Boston University include, Allison Williams '05, Erin Oliver '07 and Huntley.

SPORTSBRIEFS

BY RYAN REESE, SPORTS EDITOR

Skiers to host home Carnival

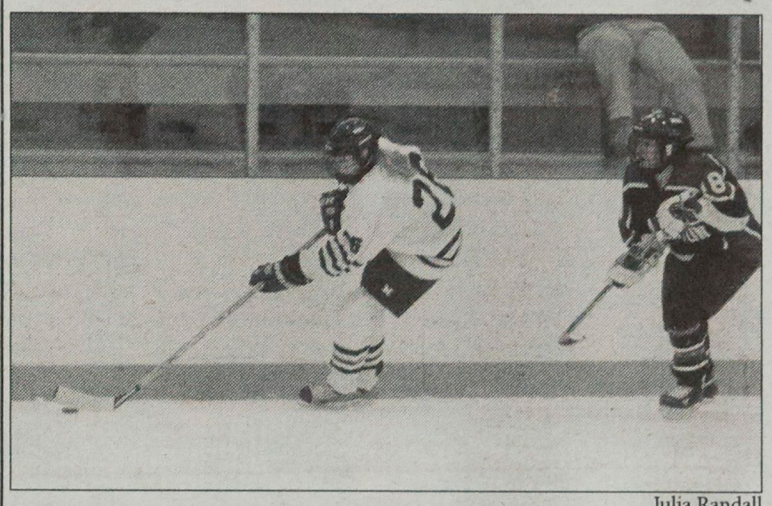
Courtesy

As we all know, this upcoming weekend is the 82nd annual Middlebury Winter Carnival. While most of the campus will be "Keepin' it Live in '05," the Middlebury men's and women's ski teams will be competing for the EISA Skiing Championships. Being the true reason for the carnival, the skiers will play host as the Snow Bowl and the Rikert Ski Touring Center will be the site of the various races. Friday's events will include the first and second runs of the men's and women's slalom as well as the men's 10k classic Nordic race and the 5k women's freestyle Nordic race. On Saturday, the racing will commence with the women's and men's giant slalom and will continue with the women's 15k mass start freestyle and the men's 20k version for the men. On both days, the competitors will hit the snow promptly at 9:30 a.m. Both Middlebury squads have been performing quite well this season while racking up quite a few third place finishes. The Panthers will hope to exploit the home course advantage and come out on top as the College celebrates the sport of skiing and, well, a wide variety of other things.

Track team focuses on unity

In preparation for the upcoming spring season, the track team has a new look and a new focus. While track lends itself to individualization and isolation, the Panthers will be looking to stay unified and promote a tight-knit squad throughout the outdoor season. Not only has the team decided to adopt this philosophy into their mental routine and group mindset, they have created a new workout plan to accompany these ideas of group bonding. Peter Kim, head coach of the women's soccer team, has shifted his focus for the spring and will be helping with the sprinters. This is not the only thing that Kim is bringing to the table. Everyday, the entire squad has been brought together for group abdominal workouts. Through creative exercises that promote group effort and cooperation, the Panthers are strengthening their midsections as well as the team's unity. The team will open the outdoor season in California during their annual training trip to San Diego. Middlebury's home meet will be held on April 2 and will see the Panthers taking on the NESCAC's finest and fittest.

Kenyon to host quarterfinals



Julia Randall

Both the men's and women's hockey teams will be hosting the first round of the NESCAC tournament. In less than a fortnight, on Feb. 26, the teams will face off against rival NESCAC foes in the single elimination tournament. The women will take the ice first as they take on the Bantams of Trinity at 1 p.m. The women Panthers lost a tough contest to Elmira, the top ranked team in the nation this past weekend. In the intense overtime battle, a decisive goal for Elmira in the 3-2 Middlebury defeat wrapped up a solid regular season for the Panther side. Should the women win, they would then travel to Bowdoin for the semifinals and finals. Later on the same day, the men's team will match up against their counterparts from Hamilton. At 4 p.m., Kenyon Arena will once again be the site of postseason play. Middlebury is coming off of a strong weekend that saw them destroy two in-state rivals. The Panthers topped St. Michael's by a final tally of 4-1. Perhaps even more exciting was the result against Norwich. The Panthers skated out to an unprecedented 6-0 lead before settling for an astonishing 7-3 win. With this type of momentum, the men look tough to beat and with a win, they would skate into the Frozen Four that will be held at Trinity.

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GAMES TO WATCH

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campus sports

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2005

Panthers dismantle Purple Knights and Cadets

Midd skaters thump St. Micheal's 4-1 before trouncing rival Norwich 7-3

Julia Randall

A trio of Panthers look to break past a swarming defense during season play. Middlebury won twice last weekend to close out the regular season.

By Jason Lockhart
Staff Writer

The rivalry between the Norwich and Middlebury men's ice hockey teams is historic, and is arguably one of the biggest in all of Division III hockey. Its significance is not bound by one factor alone. Sure they both play in Vermont and have both won multiple National Championships in the past 10 years, but it is not merely the geography, or the achievements that make up this rivalry; it is the intensity and passion that goes into their games against one another.

Rivalries, however, do not always play up to their potential, as was the case in this weekend's match up at Norwich. What was turning into another epic battle between these two Vermont hockey superpowers turned into a one-sided pasting by the Panthers. A five-goal outburst in the second period put the game out of reach as the Panthers skated away with a surprising 7-3 win over the #3 ranked Cadets.

"We needed to beat Norwich to gain the confidence and play the kind of hockey that will lead us to success in the playoffs," said Mickey Gilchrist '08 who scored Middlebury's first two goals of the game.

The explosion of momentum occurred just moments after the 10 minute mark of the second period. Gilchrist chipped home his second goal of the game and team-leading 17th of the season to give Middlebury a 2-0 lead.

"Getting the first goal was huge in getting us going," indicated Justin Gaines '08 who had three assists in the game. "However, the second goal was even bigger because that just opened the flood gates on them."

Before Gilchrist's second goal was even announced, Evgeny Saidachêv '07 streaked back in the zone and fired a shot on Norwich's goaltender Kevin Schieve. Schieve didn't deal with the shot properly and the puck trickled in just 13 seconds after the Panthers' second goal.

The Panthers continued to pressure scoring three more goals in a span of 4:06. Schieve was replaced after the Panthers third goal. Following the Panthers fourth goal, Levi Doria '05 was ridden hard into the boards by Phil Sbrocchi, resulting in a five-minute power play for the Panthers. Middlebury made Norwich pay by scoring two goals on the power play.

The Panthers let up a bit in the third period allowing three goals, but Brian Phinney '05 capped off the scoring in the game to once again, give the Panthers a comfortable lead.

What shouldn't be overlooked was the fact that Middlebury was clinging to a 1-0 lead for nearly half the game. It seemed likely that Norwich would score soon as they pressured intensely during the first half of the second period, however, first-year netminder Ross Cherry kept his composure and shutdown the Cadets for as long as he needed to.

"Cherry's play was exactly what we needed," said Gaines. "He kept us in there all night." The previous night, Cherry had a another stellar performance as Middlebury topped another in-state rival St. Michaels, 4-1.

The Panthers will host the NESCAC quarterfinal game on Saturday against Hamilton. If the team wins that game they will travel to Trinity College, where the semifinals and finals of the tournament will be held March 5th and 6th.

Women make waves to NESCAC third place

By Sarah Poling-Leuhrman
Staff Writer

The Middlebury women's swimming and diving team ended their season with a remarkable performance this past weekend at the first NESCAC Championship swim meet ever to be held in the Middlebury Natatorium. Though they placed third with 1,337 points behind Williams, NESCAC champions since 1987, with 1,729 points, and Amherst, with 1,431.50 points, the Panthers can be proud of a successful weekend full of record-shattering swimming, "as this became the fastest NESCAC Championship in conference history," said Head Coach Peter Solomon. Though only 24 swimmers suited up for the event, the entire team turned out in their Pink Panthers flair to cheer their teammates on against the seven other teams present for the competition.

Star swimmers Marika Ross '08 and Sara Cowie '08 were the team's highest scorers for the weekend, Cowie tying for first place with 96 points and Ross for fourth place with 94 points. Both swimmers performed better than they have all season, each collecting multiple individual first place wins and contributing strong relay performances. Altogether, Middlebury's first-years scored by far the most points of any other freshmen class (456 to Williams' 336 and Amherst's 295). The weekend began with Cowie's first place win in the 500 yard free event on Friday evening, her time of 5:02.64 earning her an NCAA "A" qualification and setting a pool record. Saturday, she placed first and posted the meet record of 10:21.04, another pool record, in the 1000 free event, and Sunday she achieved another NCAA "A" cut in the 1650 free with her winning time of 17:19.50.

Ross's stellar performance brought her three individual victories over the course of the weekend, all setting pool records and NESCAC Championship Meet records and all three times qualifying as NCAA "A" cuts. Saturday she won the 200 yard IM in 2:04.98 and the 400 yard IM in 4:29.71, and she won the 200 fly in 2:03.09 on Sunday, breaking a NESCAC conference record.

Other notable individual swimmers included sprinter Barbara Van der Veer '07, who won third place in the 100 yard free and fourth place in the 50 yard fly and the 50 yard free and Anna Flores '08, who picked up a third place win in the 50 yard breaststroke and broke a school record.

The Panthers' relay teams delivered strong performances throughout the weekend; Van der Veer, Ross, Liz Rice '07 and Lauren King '05 winning second place in the 200 yard free and a NCAA "B" qualification with their time of 1:36.51. Also picking up NCAA "B" recognition was the 200 medley relay team, Van der Veer, Flores, Rice and Becca Reingold '07, who won fourth place in their event. More remarkable still were Van der Veer, Rice, Ross and Pam Chatikavanij '08 and their third place win and NCAA "A" time of 3:31.50 in the 400 free relay. "I don't think I've ever had so many of our swimmers perform so well in a championship meet before," said Solomon. "It seemed like every time someone got up on the blocks that they did a personal best time."

Tessa Truex '05 ended her final season as a Middlebury diver with second place finishes and NCAA "B" cuts in the 1 meter and 3 meter diving events. Truex set new school records in both events, and her stellar performance made her the Diver of the Meet. She and Alanna Hanson '08, who finished fourth in both events, "showed that they were the team to contend with" and provided "unmatched depth in the event," said Solomon. Not only were the divers recognized, but their coach, Lisa Gibbs, was named Diving Coach of the Meet.

"Middlebury held their own in a very competitive meet," said Solomon proudly of his swimmers. "The addition of some talented freshmen this year really helped to keep us on a level playing field with the likes of Amherst and Williams, both teams that are expected to go on and be one of the best 5 or 6 teams in the country." Middlebury is planning on being right there with them when they travel to Hope Collage in Holland, Mich. for the Divisions III NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships on March 10-12th.

Ari Joseph

Middlebury's women swimmers and divers earned a place on the medal podium, finishing third, as the Natatorium hosted Middlebury's inaugural NESCAC Championships.